FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MAY 1984

Gulf Crisis

The Arab League Council, in its emergency session in Tunis, approved a resolution condemning the bombing of Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers by Iran, demanded that the latter desist from attacking ships traveling to and from GCC ports, and urged the UN Security Council and the international community to take "firm and clear" stands to prevent a recurrence of such "acts of aggression," SPA reported. The Council also decided to hold the 13th Arab summit conference in Saudi Arabia in November.

At the meeting, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, in a speech reported by SPA, denounced the "flagrant military aggression" undertaken by Iran, stating that it is no longer possible to remain a "spectator" with regard to the Gulf war. The Kuwaiti foreign minister described Iran's "aggressive behavior" as being calculated to draw "major states and powers" into the conflict, according to KUNA. The Kuwaiti minister stressed that he will not invite the superpowers to intervene in the Gulf, noting that the GCC countries are engaged in "intensive" defense coordination, the agency reported.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz described the Council session as "successful," citing in particular the condemnation of Iran's "aggression," according to INA.

Following the session, an Arab League delegation including the Iraqi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers departed for Japan, INA disclosed, for talks with Japanese officials on ways to end the Iran-Iraq war through negotiations, the agency added. Meanwhile, Iran's Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio, warned neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf not to enter the Iran-Iraq war and served notice on the "superpowers" that Iran would prepare for war "throughout the world" against the interests of any country which sets foot in the Gulf. The Majlis speaker also warned of the possibility of an "extremely momentous development" in the region, advising the nation to prepare for a difficult and possibly prolonged "jihad" which, when victorious, would assure Islam's greatness throughout the world.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) issued a statement broadcast by Tehran radio in which it pledged to "eradicate criminal America" from the Gulf region should it engage in "warmongering" in the area and warned that U.S. intervention would cause the IRGC to target the interests of all those involved in the "conspiracy" against Iran. The statement called on the "billion-strong Islamic ummah" to "endanger" Western interests throughout the world in the event of continued U.S. intervention. However, IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i asserted that the United States is "not in a position" to risk direct intervention and deploy military forces, according to IRNA.

In a related development, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in comments reported by Tehran radio and IRNA, reiterated his warning that insecurity for the Iranian oil routes would lead to insecurity for all other oil routes, observing that it would be "irrational" to expect Iran to let other countries in the region export their oil while Iran was unable to do so. While voicing doubt that "other powers" would intervene in the Gulf after their experience in Lebanon, he stated that Iran's policy was to respond to any blow with a stronger one.

An editorial in the Iranian newspaper *KEYHAN* reported by IRNA asked why Iran had to be patient and watch the "hostile cooperation" between Iraq and Kuwait when Iranian planes "can easily overfly Kuwaiti installations." The editorial noted the "hostile attitude" of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and stated that the Iranian people expect their leaders to show their determination to stop the hostile acts of their neighbors.

In Iraq First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan stated that the "siege" imposed on Iran will be "expanded" in the next 3 months, according to INA. Ramadan claimed that Iranian oil exports have declined by 55 percent as a result of the Iraqi blockade.

Both Tehran and Baghdad radios reported that a merchant ship, the *Fidelity*, sank in the northern part of the Gulf after being hit in an Iraqi missile attack on 18 May. According to sources in Lloyd's shipping company cited by Baghdad radio, the vessel was of Panamanian registry and was headed for Bandar-e Khomeyni with a cargo of steel.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli warplanes attacked a "terrorist" base in the Al-Biqa' region used by extremist groups under Iranian influence, the IDF spokesman announced on 20 May in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. He said all the Israeli planes returned safely to base after scoring precise hits on their target, located in the Janta region east of Riyaq. Voice of Lebanon radio said that arms depots and a camp housing Hezbollah gunmen were destroyed and also cited an unconfirmed report that the Israeli aircraft bombed a SAM base in the area. Antiaircraft fire was directed at the Israeli planes, according to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio. Monitored Syrian media have not been heard to mention the raid.

Security in Sidon, Beirut — An IDF soldier was wounded when an IDF convoy was ambushed in the Sidon region on 20 May, the IDF spokesman disclosed in an announcement carried by ITIM. In an earlier attack in Sidon, an IDF soldier was wounded but managed to kill his assailant, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, the IDF continued to patrol and search for weapons inside the nearby 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp, the

radio noted. An UNRWA spokesman cited by Jerusalem television revealed that 3 people were killed and 29 others were wounded in recent clashes in the camp, whose inhabitants staged a protest march against the Israelis on 18 May, according to Beirut radio.

In Beirut the situation was relatively calm over the weekend after shelling which killed or wounded 15 people in the western sector on 18 May, Beirut radio reported. Voice of Lebanon blamed gunmen in West Beirut for provoking the violence.

Political Developments — The Cabinet approved the draft policy statement "with all its points and principles," Prime Minister Rashid Karami stated in remarks broadcast by Voice of Arab Lebanon after a 19 May Cabinet meeting in Bikfayya. The statement, which is the basis on which the government will seek a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies, stresses the need for security arrangements that will lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the south and calls for the establishment of a Lebanese security force to fill the vacuum caused by such a withdrawal, according to Voice of Lebanon. The Cabinet statement also deals with political, administrative, and legislative reforms, the radio added. During his visit to Bikfayya to attend the meeting, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt held talks with Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram aimed at consolidating the cease-fire in Beirut, according to the clandestine PSP and Phalangist radios, Voice of the Mountain and Radio Free Lebanon.

In Syria President Hafiz al-Asad indicated his willingness to recognize Israel's demand for security guarantees as a condition for withdrawing the IDF from Lebanon, asserting in an interview with a British paper reported by Jerusalem radio that Lebanon could guarantee to maintain the security of its southern border on the condition that the Lebanese Army would be solely responsible for such arrangements and that there would be no IDF presence on Lebanese soil.

PLO Affairs

After meeting in Moscow with Karen Brutents, the deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf characterized his talks as being held in a "frank, sincere, and comfortable atmosphere" and focused on the PLO's internal situation, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. While reaffirming the Fatah leadership's desire to reestablish "natural" relations with Syria, Khalaf indicated that the Syrians are still displaying a "negative attitude" and attempting to impose conditions that the Fatah-PLO leaders cannot accept. Khalaf also denied that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the transfer of the PLO and Fatah apparatus to Cairo but confirmed that the Palestine Research Center will be transferred to the Egyptian capital.

Meanwhile, after the conclusion of the second round of talks between Fatah officials and representatives of the PFLP and DFLP in Algiers, a PLO statement carried by Algiers radio said the meeting had achieved "advanced steps" toward a comprehensive agreement, adding that a third round of intra-Palestinian talks will be held in Aden the first week of June to complete discussion of outstanding issues. 'Arafat's visit to Egypt was a major subject of discussion at the Algiers meeting, according to Amman's *AR-RA'Y*.

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Reportage on Arab League Emergency Meeting

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Arrives

JN181744 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 18 May (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here a short while ago to participate in the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting, which will begin here tomorrow. In a statement to INA, Tariq 'Aziz said that holding an Arab summit has become essential, especially after the recent developments represented by Iranian attacks on the fraternal Arab countries — Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He added that the importance of the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting has increased due to the importance of the subjects it will discuss. The conferees, he said, should confront the new challenge to which the Arab nation and its eastern flank are exposed. Asked about his assessment of the activities of the 7-member committee, which was formed by the Arab foreign ministers' emergency conference in Baghdad in March to follow up the Iraqi-Iranian war, Tariq 'Aziz highly valued the committee's mission in explaining the Arab stance toward the continuation of the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

He underlined the importance of having a unified Arab opinion, as well as a unified Arab stand toward the Iranian attacks, as was the case at the Arab foreign ministes' conference in March. He added that such a unified stand can play an important role in pooling world public opinion and in finding a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

'Aziz Confers With Ministers

JN182028 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 18 May — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met in his place of residence in Tunis this evening with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The two sides discussed the Iranian attacks on the Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers and the dangers these attacks pose to navigation in the Arab Gulf. They also discussed the topics listed on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting, which will begin here tomorrow. Tariq 'Aziz also met with Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, and discussed with him the Iranian attacks on the Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers and the measures which the GCC states will adopt in this regard. They also discussed the topics listed on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting.

Meets Saudi, Jordanian Ministers

JN190940 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 19 May (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met separately at his place of residence in Tunis last night with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. Discussion during the two meetings focused on Iranian aggression against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in the Arab Gulf and the impact of these aggressions on the safety of Gulf navigation. The discussion also focused on the topics listed on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting scheduled to begin here later today.

Syria's Ash-Shar' Arrives

JN182108 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' arrived in Tunis this evening to head the Syrian delegation to the emergency meetings of the Arab League Council scheduled to begin in Tunis tomorrow at the level of Arab foreign ministers. He was received at the airport by Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League; 'Adnan 'Umran, assistant secretary general of the Arab League for political and international affairs; 'Umar as-Sayyid, Syrian charge d'affaires in Tunis; and the embassy staff. Also arriving on the same plane was 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, PDRY foreign minister and chairman of the current session of the Arab League Council meetings.

To a question on the forthcoming Arab summit conference, Ash-Shar' said: We support the convocation of this summit and we wish it every success, because the aim is to make this summit succeed and not merely to convene it. Regarding Syria's agreement to participate in an international conference to solve the Middle East issue and the possibility that such a move might help end the region's crisis, Faruq ash-Shar' said: Unfortunately whenever an initiative is made, such as an international conference within the framework of international legitimacy, we find that some Arab regimes attempt to thwart this move and seek separate solutions and bargains. That was the case in 1977 when discussions at the United Nations were centered on international efforts to achieve a just peace in the region, Anwar as-Sadat acted alone and later signed the Camp David agreement.

Ash-Shar' added: We feel that the same dangers exist. We must be very alert and careful and warn the Arab masses and brothers of the gravity of this stage so as to avoid past mistakes. In a statement to journalists at the airport, Ash-Shar' said that he hoped that this meeting would help achieve a united Arab stand to confront the dangers threatening the Arab nation. He said that there are great dangers, foremost of which is the Zionist danger and ways of confronting it. Therefore, the Zionist conference which was held in fraternal Morocco must be discussed and a united Arab stand must be adopted on that issue.

The minister explained that the imperialist-Zionist onslaught is aimed against all of us and that the way to confront it is to achieve real Arab solidarity based on proper understanding of all aspects of the conflict. Ash-Shar' affirmed that this requires joint Arab understanding and not further meetings and divisions in the Arab rank. He said he was confident of the possibility of achieving positive results. Regardng mediations to settle Arab differences, Ash-Shar' said: We believe that Arab leaders should reach a common understanding on the most effective ways of confronting the vicious imperialist-Zionist onslaught by learning from our past bitter experiences, particularly the Camp David experience and the 17 May agreement, which we managed to foil decisively. The foreign minister affirmed that this common understanding will pave the way for bolstering Arab efforts in all fields.

Meets Arab Counterparts

JN191248 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] Tunis — The emergency meetings of the Arab League Council will begin today. Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' arrived in Tunis yesterday at the head of the Syrian delegation to these meetings. Ash-Shar' held side meetings last night. He met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for foreign liaison. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Arab region and the agenda of the Arab League Council emergency meetings. Ash-Shar' discussed Libyan-Tunisian relations within the framework of efforts he is exerting to pacify tension, improve relations between the two fraternal countries, and reinforce joint Arab efforts for the sake of the central Arab cause — the Palestine cause — in order to confront the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation. Faruq ash-Shar' received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the meeting, they discussed the agenda of the emergency meetings and the need to adopt a unified Arab stand on the Zionist conference that was held in Morocco.

KUNA Reports Council Agenda

LD181956 Kuwait KUNA in English 1758 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Tunis, May 18 (KUNA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Information Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah arrived here Friday evening to attend the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council which opens Saturday. Shaykh as-Sabah was received by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and high ranking officials of the League Secretariat, as well as Kuwait's permanent representative to the League, Mijrin Ahmad al-Hamad. Klibi said there is unanimous Arab accord to adopt the complaint of Kuwait against Iran to the Security Council protesting the aerial Iranian offensive in which two Kuwaiti tankers were hit in the past few days. Shaykh as-Sabah told KUNA that Kuwait has asked the Arab League Secretariat to place the Iranian offensive on Kuwaiti and Saudi vessels on the agenda of this extraordinary session. The extraordinary session was originally scheduled to determine the date of the forthcoming Arab summit slated to be held in Riyadh and examine the topics suggested for the agenda.

Meanwhile, the Arab delegates to the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation is expected to hold a meeting in tandem with the extraordinary session in preparation for the convening of the seventh session of this committee on May 28 and 29 in Tripoli, Libya.

Four other Arab committees are scheduled to be in session during this period and these include: the Iraq-Iran War Committee that comprises the foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, and North Yemen. The committee for amending the Charter, which is made up of Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Morocco. The Arab-Israeli struggle and the Committee for Joint Arab Action. A number of foreign ministers have already arrived here earlier and these include Sudan's Hashim 'Uthman, North Yemen's Dr. Mohammed al-Asbahi, Syria's Faruq Shar', Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz, Jordan's Tahir al-Masri, South Yemen's Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, and Djibouti's Moumin Bahdon Farah. Lebanese Education Minister Salim al-Huss and foreign ministers of Qatar, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates are expected to arrive here later tonight. Syria's foreign minister, Shar', told reporters that his government has requested listing the Jewish conference, which was recently held in Rabat, among the topics of extraordinary session.

Foreign Ministers Meeting Opens

LD190948 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0906 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 19 May (KUNA) — The Arab League Council began its emergency meeting session here this morning. The session is held at foreign ministers' level to discuss three major issues: arranging a date for the next Arab summit meeting and its agenda; Iranian aggressions against Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers; and the Jewish congress held in Morocco. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said yesterday that there was a collective Arab national inclination to sponsor Kuwait's complaint to the UN Security Council about the recent bombardment of Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers by Iranian military aircraft in the Arab Gulf recently.

Klibi Delivers Opening Speech

LD191618 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 19 May (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi warned here today that if matters remain as they are now in the Middle East, namely the continuing Israeli dominance backed by the United States, there will be no opportunity for peace, either on the basis of the Fes summit, U.S. President Reagan's proposals, or international proposals. In a speech delivered at the opening of the Arab League Council emergency meeting, the Arab League secretary general described the Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers as constituting a threat to the Gulf countries' vital interests and a violation of the UN Charter and maritime laws. He stressed the Arab countries' strong denunciation of these attacks and urged the superpowers to work earnestly to end the Iraqi-Iranian war, especially as these superpowers have vital interests in the Gulf region.

Klibi urged the U.S. Administration to stop its unlimited backing of Israel out of concern for its interests in the Arab region. The Arab League secretary general cited a report written by a former deputy mayor of Jerusalem, who is an Israeli national, stating that if U.S. aid to Israel is ceased, the building of settlements on the West Bank would also stop. Klibi also cited King Husayn of Jordan's statement that U.S. aid created the Israeli settlements on the West Bank. The Arab League secretary general reviewed the U.S. Administration's position regarding Israeli settlements on the West Bank. He said that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter described it as unlawful, while the present U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, has described it as lawful, but as constituting an obstacle to peace in the Middle East. Klibi exclaimed: How can we trust the U.S. Administration and deal with it on this basis?

KUNA Reports Discussions

LD191822 Kuwait KUNA in English 1529 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tunis, May 19 (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi strongly denounced Iran's missile attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers after a closed-door meeting of the league's subcommittee on the Iraq-Iran war. Addressing the full Arab League Council — in which 17 countries were represented at foreign ministerial level — Klibi called last week's attacks a "threat to the vital interests of the Gulf states and violation of the UN Charter and the law of the sea." But he did not specify any new steps to be taken to counter the incidents, except to repeat longstanding league calls on the superpowers to act urgently to call a halt to the 44-month-old Iraq-Iran war. Earlier, the league subcommittee looking into the conflict — made up of Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Yemen — met with Klibi for discussion on the latest developments, a move which postponed the council's plenary session for over 90 minutes.

Nothing was revealed of the subcommittee's deliberations, although well-placed sources said that, contrary to earlier fears, there appeared to be unanimity among Arab states about the need to condemn Iran and support the Kuwaiti complaint to that effect forwarded to the UN Security Council.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz and a senior Saudi official are scheduled to fly Sunday to Japan, the industrialized country most dependent on Gulf oil supplies and one of Iran's main customers. Earlier reports had said that Arab countries were trying to urge oil consumers to lessen their imports from Iran until that country proved more receptive to peace initiatives, but a league official restricted comment on the forthcoming Tokyo visit to saying that it was part of joint Arab moves launched at the March 13 Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Baghdad. Last week, foreign ministers of the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which comprises Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman, decided to take the issue of the tanker attacks to the Security Council, an issue expected to be put forward within the next few days by the regional organization's Kuwaiti Secretary-General 'Abdallah Bisharah.

The league council, a regular event scheduled before the latest tanker attacks stole the limelight on the Arab political stage, also discussed a number of other issues, notably the question of Palestine on which Klibi condemned the U.S.' "unconditional and unlimited" support for Israel and the Zionist state's settlement and expansion policies.

Another issue discussed in committee was a Jordanian proposal to make future league policy reachable by majority vote rather than the current practice of gaining unanimity on policy matters before they are formally adopted. A committee made up to discuss this change consisting of declared opponents and supporters of the move as well as uncommitted states — met behind closed doors to confer on the matter without issuing any formal statement. In behind-the-scenes developments, Klibi met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Shar' in an effort to persuade Damascus to withdraw its memorandum calling for discussion of the recent visit of an Israeli parliamentary delegation to Morocco.

But a member of the Syrian delegation to the council told KUNA that his country, which withdrew its ambassador from Rabat in protest at the visit, was determined to get the issue discussed because of "the danger it posed regarding future Arab contacts with Israel." Syria Friday night undertook mediation talks here between the Libyan and Tunisian delegations in an effort to decrease the border tension that has recently resurfaced between the two neighboring states. The council is expected to reconvene later Saturday evening after hearing Klibi's address in the opening session.

Committee Memberships Detailed

LD191741 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1609 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The emergency session of the Arab League Council was opened today in Tunis at the level of foreign ministers. It was presided over by PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali and attended by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to study the subjects that will be presented to the forthcoming Arab summit conference. It is expected that there will be meetings for the committees responsible for studying the African files that will be presented to the summit. Other committees are: the committee for monitoring the developments of the war between Iraq and Iran, which consists of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the YAR, Tunisia, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, and the secretary general; the committee for altering the Charter, which consists of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, and the secretary general; and the committee for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the committee for joint Arab action, the formation of which is being discussed.

It is also expected that the Arab side in the permanent committee for Arab-African cooperation will hold a meeting on this occasion as preparation for the seventh session of the permanent committee, which will be held on 25 and 28 May in Tripoli. Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali explained that this meeting is held during complex Arab circumstances. Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali stressed that the convention of the 13th Arab summit conference will help the Arabs confront attempts to impose a humiliating peace on the Arab peoples and liquidate the issue of the Palestinian Arab peoples through imposing capitulatory and dubious Israeli schemes. Mr Chedli Klibi made a speech in which he analyzed the situation in the Arab region and the developments of Arab issues in the international arena. After the opening session, which continued for about 40 minutes, the ministerial council started to discuss the subjects on the agenda in a closed session.

Ash-Shar' Holds Meetings

JN191824 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' met in Tunis yesterday with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison. Ash-Shar' today met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. During the meeting, talks centered on the agenda of the Arab League Council's emergency meeting. It was agreed to include the

subject of the Zionist conference in Morocco in the agenda of the next Arab summit meeting due to the importance and serious nature of this subject.

Saudi Arabia Declines Summit

LD191949 Kuwait KUNA in English 1820 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tunis, May 19 (KUNA) — Saudi Arabia Saturday declined formally to host the next Arab summit conference in Riyadh during the next four months, but witheld its right to hold the summit later on its territory. According to informed sources, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told the closed opening session of the Arab League ministerial council here that Riyadh cannot host the summit, originally scheduled for last March 31, within the next four months. He explained that the months of Ramadan (fasting), pilgrimage season, and the Moslem small and greater feasts will be too busy to allow adequate preparations for holding the Arab summit. Taking part in the ensuing debate, Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Information Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad emphasized the need for holding the summit, which has been put off several times.

"It is no shame," he told the session, "that we fail (to meet), but the shame is to approve of not holding the summit." The Kuwaiti official argued that the summit will be an opportunity for Arab leaders to straighten out relations and settle outstanding differences which foreign ministers could not solve.

Following a general debate, the session resolved to set up a committee comprising the foreign ministers of Iraq, Arab Yemen, Democratic Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Syria and Jordan as well as the league secretary-general to recommend a date for the summit to the council's second closed session scheduled for this evening.

The source concluded that the league council has decided during its morning secret session to overpass a Syrian note on a Jewish congress held recently in Morocco for discussion by the next Arab summit conference.

Summit Scheduled for November

LD192053 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The Arab countries' foreign ministers this evening resumed in Tunis the meetings of their emergency conference by holding a closed session. It has been learned from sources close to the conference that during this session the ministers discussed the proposals prepared by the seven-man committee, which was formed during the first closed session and was commissioned to study the subject of fixing a date for the 13th Arab summit conference. During this session, the ministers are expected to discuss the subject of the formation of the committee for the Arab-Israeli conflict, international relations, joint Arab action, and aggression against Arab ships in the Arabian Gulf. It has been learned from sources in the foreign ministers conference that the date of the 13th Arab summit conference has been fixed for the 3d week of November. These sources mentioned that the summit conference will be preceded by a preparatory meeting for the foreign ministers that will be held during this coming October.

Saudi Criticizes Iranian Attacks

LD192318 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 19 May (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, stressed that the Iraq-Iran war represents a dangerous crack in the wall of Islamic solidarity, for whose consolidation the whole Islamic nation is working. In a speech this evening at the second session of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, his highness pointed to the importance of this meeting which comes at a time during which the Arab and Islamic nation is facing great challenges, whose confrontation requires the highest degree of alertness. His highness stressed the necessity of deepening fraternal relations between Arab and Islamic countries according to the instructions and principles of Islam, so that the Islamic nation can combat the forces of evil. Here is the text of the speech by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal:

Your Excellencies. I do not want to repeat what His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has stated, but I find it imperative on my part to clarify some points. Brothers, our meeting takes place at a time when the Arab and Islamic nation is facing great challenges. In order to confront these we need the greatest measure of alertness and cooperation and earnest work among ourselves and on the part of all of us. It causes us pain to see that despite all the efforts that have been made to put an end to the war in the Gulf, which has been going on for nearly 4 years, and despite Arab, Islamic, and international mediation, an end to this war has not been achieved. It is clear that this war has caused a serious crack in the wall of Islamic solidarity, which we have all been trying to strengthen in order to be able to face the dangers that surround the Arab and Islamic world. We have made efforts and relentlessly endeavored to stop this tragic drain on the blood and potential of the sons of our Arab and Islamic nation.

A matter that gives rise to increasing sorrow and pain is this serious aggression by Iran in the form of attacks by the Iranian Air Force on Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers, which were steaming inside their normal routes in territorial waters and on international waterways outside the Gulf combat area.

This aggression constitutes a flagrant breach of all the relations and ties of religion, goodneighborliness, and international law and maritime law agreements, and is an aggression against the sovereignty and security of both Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. While we cherish our relations of neighborliness and faith with Iran, we hope these will always occur in friendship and cooperation.

However, it is very much regretted that the flagrant military aggression against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers inside territorial waters adds an element of tension to relations between ourselves and Iran, and carries a new danger that could even exacerbate the situation and add a new danger to the atmosphere that prevails in the area. We affirm that more than at any time in the past we need to remain loyal to relations that link various

Arab and Islamic states and keep faith with Islamic principles and teachings that enrich us as Muslims and provide the entire Islamic nation with the means that ensure the ability to stand up to the forces of evil and enable it to arm itself with the spirit of tolerance, generosity, fraternity, and discretion. We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believe in these excellent Islamic qualities and the Kingdom places its hopes on them. It is regretted however that the hostile and unjustified acts carried out by Iran require us all to take a firm stand with regard to this aggression so that it will not be repeated against the security and interests of the GCC states and the freedom of navigation in international waters.

This aggression carried out by Iran does not serve Islam and occurs at a time when we were making moves in every direction to contain the continuous deterioration of the situation resulting from the Gulf war. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that the various Arab, Islamic, and international parties will realize the enormity of the danger embodied in the aggravation of events in the Gulf theater, and the necessity of saving the Gulf region from this atmosphere which is dark and fraught with danger, and which does not serve the interests of its countries' peoples in any way.

These disturbing developments, which are causing extreme concern, are posing themselves as an extremely dangerous issue which calls for an immediate move in order to confront them with the appropriate and necessary means, since it is no longer possible to be a spectator of the development of this war and its escalation. We have followed the course dictated by our Charter concerning cases when the sovereignty of a member state is violated and its interests threatened, and have requested that this subject be added to your meeting's agenda, not as advocates of war and escalation, but in order to take a unified stand that complies with our Charter and can save the region from the danger of the spreading war. We want a decision that is equal to the level of the events and developments that are invading the Gulf region. There is no doubt that the responsibility is grave and great. However it is natural for us to be equal to this and to be eligible to bear its consequences. As the Kingdom has repeatedly declared, it still hopes with a faithful heart that the Gulf war will come to an end and that extremism, which nourishes its continuation, will be removed from the fuse of this war. The tolerant Islam, thanks to God, is free from every extremism, and the tolerant Islam has ordered Muslims to cooperate and has made brotherhood a strong tie for them. Therefore, the spirit of brotherhood, amity, and peace must prevail in relations between Islamic states and peoples.

We suffer greatly when an unlawful aggression befalls us and a violation of our sovereignty and territorial waters occurs, and most regrettably when this is carried out by a neighboring country with which we would hope that friendship and peace would govern our relations and its relations with its neighbors.

Kuwait Calls for Resolution

LD192113 Kuwait KUNA in English 1851 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tunis, May 19 (KUNA) — Kuwait has called on the Arab League to issue a strong resolution against the recent Iranian attacks against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in the Gulf. Speaking to the Arab League Council's extraordinary session which convened here Saturday, Kuwaiti Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the council's statement on the incidents should reflect the seriousness of the attacks and "embody the extent of our solidarity on this issue." Pointing out that the tankers were civilian vessels sailing far from the Iraq-Iran war zone, Shaykh Sabah left Arab delegates assembled in Tunis in no doubt that Kuwait considered the attacks "a dangerous escalation" in the 44-month-old conflict. He revealed Kuwait had sent a formal protest to the Iranian Government after the first of the two Kuwaiti tankers, the *Umm Qasbah*, had been hit on May 13, but that this had not prevented Iran's attack on the other vessel, the petroleum products tanker *Bahrah*, the following day.

Protests sent to Tehran after both attacks made it clear to the Iranian government that "Kuwait reserves all its rights ensuing from these aggressive and unjustified attacks," and called on Iran to "cease such attacks against the security and interests of Kuwait and its fraternal states on the Arab Gulf, as well as the freedom of navigation in international waters," Shaykh Sabah said.

Kuwait was concerned not to allow the incidents to result in further escalation of the war, Shaykh Sabah explained, and therefore sought to undertake diplomatic contacts in response to the attacks. He added that apart from the protest notes to Tehran, Kuwait had informed UN Security Council members, through their envoys in Kuwait, of the events and their seriousness. Kuwait had also called for last Thursday's emergency Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers' meeting, at which it was decided that "the subject needed to be put before an international forum because the issue threatens peace and security in the entire world," he added. This, he said, was the reason for putting the matter to the UN Security Council, a move which he hoped would both condemn the Iranian attacks and reinvigorate moves to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The veteran Kuwaiti minister went on to detail the country's constant efforts over the past four years to call a halt to the war, and commended Iraq for "the sense of historical responsibility" with which it complied with such initiatives.

But the latest Iranian attacks, Shaykh Sabah said, "were a practical implementation of past blackmailing threats, which we have for long tried to transcend, hoping that this would help confine the issue and put a limit to this conflict which threatens the entire region with ruin and destruction." "But unfortunately, we have seen that the implementation of this step will no doubt be followed by steps to escalate the already explosive situation, based on repeated expressions by Iran's leaders of determination and insistence on repeating such aggressions," Shaykh Sabah warned. "We consider Iran's aggressive behaviour to have as one of its goals, the drawing in of the major states and powers with known interests and goals in the region, so they become parties to this conflict," the Kuwaiti minister affirmed. "It is no secret to any of us what the dangers resulting from this would be, involving the return to the area of foreign influence and its accompanying competition at the expense of the independence of our states and the interests of our people," he commented.

Stressing that he was fully aware of the ties various Arab countries attending the meeting had with either side to the conflict, Shaykh Sabah said it was imperative that this "Arab gathering" take a unified and decisive stand towards the question. In conclusion, Shaykh Sabah called on all Arab states to unanimously accept a Kuwaiti draft resolution condemning the Iranian attacks, calling on Iran not to repeat such incidents, and inviting the international community to take a firm stance towards the escalation involved in the attacks. It was vitally important for Arab states to adopt such a position, he stressed, "without hesitation or reservation."

Qatari Minister Addresses Meeting

GF201227 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0513 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 19 May (WAKH) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, urged Iran not to attack installations belonging to Arab countries in the Gulf and to respond to international calls to end its war with Iraq. During his speech delivered at the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis tonight, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani said: We are intent on our relations with our neighbors and hope that they will understand this fact. He declared that the Arab Gulf region is passing through a delicate and dangerous situation which requires all to be aware and understand its [word indistinct]. He said that the world, which has kept ignoring this situation despite the fact that the Iraqi-Iranian war has gone on for 4 years, should rise to its responsibilities now that the fire has reached its fingertips and has touched upon its real interests. He said: Iran's attack on Saudi and Kuwait oil tankers cannot be justified. There should not be silence on this and we demand that all denounce this attack.

Arab League Meeting Ends

LD192309 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tunis 19 May (SPA) — The Arab League Council's extraordinary meeting concluded its work tonight in Tunis. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, in a news conference following the conclusion of the meeting, declared that the 13th Arab summit conference will be held in Saudi Arabia during the 3d week of this November, provided that it will be preceded by a preliminary meeting at the level of foreign ministers to be held in Saudi Arabia during the 3d week of this October. Mr Klibi also declared that the league's council has adopted a decision condemning the Iranian aggression on the Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers. Mr Klibi, speaking about the extraordinary meeting and its outcome, said that this session was held according to a decision of the league's council at its 7th ordinary session and one basic topic was defined for the session: to discuss the possibility of holding the 13th Arab summit conference and to set a date for it. However, in the meantime, certain events took place on the Arab arena that called on some parties to submit additional proposals on the agenda to the General Secretariat of the league.

Chedli Klibi said that during the session a committee on the Arab-Israeli conflict and international relations was formed and the Arab League Charter project was included in the work of the joint Arab action committee. The committee on the Arab-Israeli conflict and international relations includes as members: Palestine, Jordan, Syria, the UAE, Libya, Mauritania, YAR, and PDRY. The joint Arab action committee, after merging with the committee on the Charter, includes as members; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Morocco, the UAE, Somalia, and Lebanon. As for the committee on following up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, it remains as formed during the Arab League emergency meeting in Baghdad in March and it includes as members: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Morocco, the YAR, and the secretary general of the Arab League. Concerning the Iranian attack on the oil tankers in the Gulf, the secretary general of the Arab League Chedli Klibi said that the council approved the following resolution:

The Arab League Council convened at foreign ministers level in its emergency session on 19 May notes with great concern the Iranian attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers in territorial waters of the GCC states and inside navigation routes and far away from the areas which had been declared war zones. On the basis of the Charter of the Arab League and the second article of the joint Arab defense treaty, and proceeding from the principles defined by the Arab Summit conferences which assert solidarity and unity of Arab rank, it considers any attack on any Arab country as an attack on all the Arab states, and that safeguarding the independence of Arab states and the safety of their territory and the sanctity of their international borders are a duty which all Arab states should respect and should work for by all the means available. Klibi announced that the council adopted the following resolutions:

1. — It condemns the bombing of Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in territorial waters and maritime corridors of GCC states of the Arabian Gulf by the Iranian Air Force and denounces this serious aggression and the grave consequences it would have on stability and security in the area.

2. — The council decided to demand from Iran that it desist from repeating attacks on maritime navigation from and to the ports of the GCC and respect their sovereignty, territorial safety, water routes, ports, and economic installations, and that it abide by the obligations of goodneighborliness and the principles of international law and the resolutions of the UN, particularly Security Council Resolution Number 540 of 1983.

3. — The council decided to urge the Security Council and the international community to take firm and clear stands which check the dangers of a repetition of such an aggression and the destabilization it might cause to the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf area and the threat it poses to legitimate interests of the states of the area and the world.

Gulf Committee Ends Meeting

JN201120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 20 May (INA) — The seven-member Arab ministerial committee in charge of following up the Iraqi-Iranian war concluded its second meeting here late last night. The committee comprehensively reviewed the results of the visits by some of its members to various world states to explain the dangers posed by

the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the manner in which these states can apply pressure on Iran to end the war.

'Aziz Praises Ministers' Decisions

JN201505 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 20 May (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the Arab foreign ministers emergency session which ended here yesterday was successful. In a statement to the INA correspondent in Tunis today, 'Aziz added that this session has greatly contributed to reactivating joint Arab action, because it decided on a date for the next Arab summit. 'Aziz also said that the ministers made another important resolution by denouncing and condemning the Iranian aggression on ships belonging to the GCC states. This reflects Arab solidarity against the Iranian regime's threats, which are aimed against the entire eastern flank of the Arab homeland. Answering a question from the INA correspondent on the results of the second meeting of the Arab ministerial committee charged with following up the Iraqi-Iranian war, which met in Tunis yesterday, 'Aziz said that the meeting was fruitful and that it discussed the committee's past activities. He said the committee has positively evaluated these activities and drawn up a program of action for the next 2 months.

Kuwaiti, Iraqi Ministers Leave

LD201742 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, the minister of foreign affairs and information, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz have left Tunis today for Tokyo on a visit to Japan within the framework of the task of the ministerial Arab seven-member committee commissioned to monitor the Iraq-Iran war. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Mr Tariq 'Aziz will hold talks with senior Japanese officials centering on the dangers resulting from the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the adequate means to end the conflict between the two countries by peaceful means.

Syrian Foreign Minister Leaves

JN201846 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Tunis — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' left Tunis this evening for Damascus after the conclusion of the Arab League Council emergency session which was held on the foreign minister level. Ash-Shar' held side meetings with a number of Arab foreign ministers participating in the session. The last of these meetings was with Dr Salim al-Huss, Lebanese minister of education. During this meeting, the two sides discussed the Lebanese situation and issues of common interest. Dr al-Huss and 'Adnan 'Umran, Arab League assistant secretary general, left for Damascus with Ash-Shar'.

Algerian Envoy Discusses Meeting

LD210844 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Preparations for the 13th Arab summit conference to be held in the 3d week of November in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and air attacks against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in the Gulf were the two main points on the agenda of the extraordinary session of the Arab foreign ministers, which ended yesterday evening in Tunisia. A delegation from Algeria led by Brother ('Abd al-Ghani 'Uqbi), Algerian permanent delegate to the Arab League, took part. Brother ('Uqbi) intervened during the discussion of the attacks against the Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers. He confirmed that the Iraqi-Iranian war had drawn the attention of Algeria, preoccupied it, and caused it anxiety since its outbreak. He confirmed that the efforts that Algeria continues within the context of Arab, Islamic, and international efforts are dictated by its Arab-Islamic nature and its conviction in the dangers of the dimensions of this war and the grave results that it will lead to, not only in relation to the two warring parties, but also to the peoples of the entire region and to world peace and security.

After he had pointed out that the serious turning in this war confirmed the correctness of this vision — the situation threatens to widen the circle of conflict to other sister countries, and threatens their interests with destruction, he explained that this dangerous development opens the door to all foreign interferences, which in no way would be in the interests of the peoples of the region. While expressing our great anxiety at this explosive situation, represented by the strafing of civilian targets of Arab countries not party to the conflict, we continue to believe that the possibility of reconciliation has not yet been exhausted in order to reach a lasting solution that guarantees the return of peace and harmony to the region. Algeria is opposed to this war and to the widening of its scope. It also condemns the striking at civilian targets irrespective of their source, especially if this striking was aimed at sister Arab countries that are not a party to the conflict.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister: Oil Flow 'Normal, Constant'
LD211038 Kuwait KUNA in English 1009 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 11 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti daily *AL-WATAN* quoted Monday Kuwaiti oil and finance minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as affirming that the oil flow and loading is normal and constant.

The daily said that one tanker leaves every three days with a load of three million barrels, noting that Kuwait owns the largest fleet of tankers in the region carrying crude oil, oil products and liquid gas.

On the other hand, the Kuwaiti oil tanker *Umm Casbah* which has been recently attacked by Iran in the Gulf waters, is back to sea, the paper noted.

However, *AL-WATAN* also quoted a Kuwaiti source in the oil sector as saying that in spite of tension in the oil market, oil demands are semi-normal [as received].

Venezuela Increases Heavy Crude Price by 63 Cents
PA200129 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2226 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Caracas, 19 May (EFE) — Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said today that Venezuela has decided to increase the price of heavy crude by an average of 63 cents.

The price to date was $24.02 per barrel and will be $24.65 as of tomorrow. The minister said that the average price per barrel will be $24.40 for the rest of this year.

Hernandez said that "in view of the many problems that Venezuela is facing at the present time, this increase will have a very positive effect." He added that Venezuela will now receive an additional $110 million, which does not solve the problems but can help to improve the situation.

The decision affects approximately 780,000 barrels a day of varying prices and degrees API [American Petroleum Institute], making the increase an average of 63 cents per barrel.

Hernandez also made reference to the Persian Gulf situation and said he hoped this "will not interrupt the oil shipments from the Gulf."

"If there is a complete interruption of the flow, the dangers to the world economy would be difficult to foresee, but they would affect the recovery signs the Western economies are experiencing," he said.

He added that an eventual closing of the Gulf might immediately benefit the oil producers of other areas but would be detrimental for all in the long run.

Hernandez explained that the price increase of heavy Venezuelan crude is not related to the crisis in the Gulf and that this announcement at the present time is a coincidence.

GULF AFFAIRS

AR-RA'Y: No French-U.S. Military Coordination in Gulf

JN200848 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 May 84 p 1

[Salah 'Abd as-Samad dispatch]

[Text] Replying to a question on France's position with regard to U.S. pledges to guarantee shipping in the Gulf, informed diplomatic sources at the French Embassy in Amman have said that while France supports and adheres to the principle of free shipping in the Gulf, it believes that Gulf security is principally the sole responsibility of the Gulf states. France prefers to keep the region away from superpower rivalry.

These sources affirmed that France supports any plan aimed at restoring peace to the Gulf and that France clearly expressed this view when it accepted Security Council Resolution 540. Moreover, France will support any truce that can be achieved between the two warring parties in the Gulf waters.

The sources added that France believes that a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the region is the real way to safeguard shipping there. France also believes that efforts aimed at achieving such a settlement should be given top priorty. However, if these efforts fail and the situation irrevocably deteriorates, then France would be willing to study appropriate ways to safeguard shipping in the Gulf.

The French diplomatic sources affirmed there is no military coordination between France and the United States in the Gulf and that the French naval presence in the Indian Ocean is an independent presence. This presence is represented by the fleet led by Admiral (Le Febre). Two units of this fleet visited the port of Aqaba in the period from 29 April to 5 May.

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister on Trips to Tunis, France

GF190719 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Manama, 19 May (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah left for Tunis this morning leading his country's delegation to the extraordinary Arab foreign ministers conference there later today. The Bahraini minister will make an official visit to France after the Arab foreign ministers conference, during which he will hold talks with his French counterpart, Claude Cheysson, on the latest Arab and Gulf developments.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said the Arab foreign ministers meetings come amid serious and important circumstances which will affect the future of the Arab nation. In a predeparture statement to WAKH, he said: Aggressions on the Arab nation increase and the internal Arab situation is not as it should be. We hope that during this meeting main bases will be laid down for holding the forthcoming Arab summit conference to discuss these things so that the Arab nation will be able to face these dangers.

Referring to the recent Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers, the Bahraini foreign affairs minister said: This action is a serious threat to the national security of this region, which is part of the pan-Arab security, and the responsibility is first of all an Arab one. He warned against the threats menacing shipping in the Arab Gulf region and the liability of expanding them to the international level. The GCC countries are working within the Arab League framework to reach a unified Arab stand to repel any aggression against the interests of any Arab country, he said. There are joint Arab agreements, and we hope that one of them will be implemented in words and deeds, he added.

The Bahraini foreign affairs minister said the GCC countries have asked that the Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers be added to the Security Council's agenda. GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah will leave for New York today for this purpose, he said. I hope that the Security Council will fix a near date to discuss this issue. There is continuous diplomatic action with a number of countries to adopt an international stand on this issue, he added.

Referring to his visit to France, the Bahraini foreign affairs minister said: It will be an opportunity to exchange views on the latest Arab and Gulf developments, particularly since France is the current EEC chairman and has an influence on the European stand.

KUWAIT

Cabinet Discusses Gulf Attacks on Oil Tankers

LD191044 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1013 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 May (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti cabinet held an extraordinary meeting today under the chairmanship of the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, to discuss the question of Iranian aggression against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in the Arab Gulf recently.

Following the meeting, the acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, Jasim al-Marzuq, said the amir of Kuwait discussed with members of the Council of Ministers "the latest developments in the region and the steps to be taken in this regard."

However, he did not specify whether the meeting agreed on specific measures to counter the Iranian aggression which will be discussed at an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis today. He said, "The cabinet will complete its discussion of the matter at a meeting to be held tomorrow."

Defense Minister States Kuwait's Defense Capability

LD200848 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0744 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti defense minister, Shaykh Salim as-Sabah as-Salim, stressed in statements published here today that Kuwait will absolutely not invite the superpowers to intervene in the region. Kuwait will not stand with its hands tied behind its back in the face of those who transgress the sanctity of our skies and territories.

Shaykh Salim's statements were published in the Kuwaiti papers *AL-QABAS* and *AL-WATAN*. Shaykh Salim said there is no intention to resite the Kuwaiti Hawk missiles, and pointed out the present positions were selected with a view to defending Kuwait and its skies in any event.

The defense minister was commenting on reports published by the *MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY* in Cyprus yesterday saying that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are working to intensify and reinforce their preparations to face any attacks in the future, following the attack on their oil tankers. Shaykh Salim warned against any attack on Kuwait's waters, skies or territories. He explained Kuwait has a military strategy and missiles built on the basis of this strategy, and they are ready to repel any attack on our territories. He said that military defense coordination with GCC countries is continuing intensively to face any attack on any member state of the Council. In addition to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the Council includes the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman.

Foreign Minister Comments on Tunis Talks
LD210954 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0859 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] Beirut, 21 May (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign and information minister, has reaffirmed that Kuwait does not seek war but is prepared to safeguard its properties at sea or on land. In an interview with the Lebanese *ANH-NAHAR* prior to his departure from Tunis at the end of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the member states of the GCC have taken joint military measures which will be announced this week. Kuwait presented to the Arab foreign ministers, who held a meeting in Tunis last Saturday, the subject of the Iranian aggressions against the Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in the waters and ports of the Arabian Gulf. The GCC countries also decided to submit a collective complaint to the UN Security Council, which is expected to meet at the end of this week to discuss the subject.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad renewed his thanks to all the Arab states which endorsed the resolution adopted by the Arab League. He said: "We were the ones who prepared the statement and we believe that it is sufficient." He added: "We do not seek war; we seek nothing but peace." He pointed out that the Arab world has shown it is united, and works as a single hand against whoever carries out aggression on an Arab brother in any Arab country. "This concerns us a great deal, and made us forget the Arab League's past and think about its present and its future." He said that this is the first time a statement has been issued by the Arab League without reservation, except for the Libyans, who said that they would consult their government today.

Shaykh Sabah said that the Gulf countries are afraid of the expansion of the Iraq-Iran war toward neighboring Gulf countries. "This is not surprising, as the war has been continuing for 4 years, and must have an effect on neighboring countries."

He added: "What offended us were the strikes at vital targets, Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers."

He said: "The targets were selected as if we were the imperialists, and they forgot that the Americans, the English and the French are the imperialists, and that we are Muslims."

He said, "We were upset that the strike was aimed at Kuwait and Saudi oil tankers, which were either in the war zone or in the territorial waters of another country. This is what made us complete our political move on both the Arab and international directions."

Shaykh Sabah pointed out the agreement of the GCC countries, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, on consolidating their air defense systems to deter any new attack, and asked: "Is it not our right to consolidate our air defenses to preserve our properties? This is our legitimate right. We are now ready to defend our properties whether in the sea or on land. But this does not mean we are looking for war."

Replying to a question about agreeing on joint military measures to answer any aggression, Shaykh Sabah said that consultations about this subject are being held among officials. He expressed his belief that during this week, everything at the Gulf level will be ready.

With regard to the possibility of a foreign military intervention should the freedom of navigation be exposed to real danger, or should the war be extended to the Gulf states, he said: "First, you must know that the Gulf waters are not territorial but international, governed by international agreements. The Gulf concerns me and others because it is an artery for the countries of Europe, Asia, Japan and numerous others. I am not concerned about their intervention in the territorial waters, but I cannot accept that they can have bases in my country."

He said, "I do not have the right to oppose a military intervention because the Gulf is international and is not a Kuwaiti, Omani, Qatari or even an Arab Gulf."

Assessing the stances of the United States and Europe toward the recent developments in the region, he said, "Those who read the statements issued by these countries which gave attention to this subject [as received]. We will present it to the Security Council and we hope to obtain a clear resolution so that such a matter will not be repeated."

In reply to a quesiton on whether Security Council resolutions or military force alone can protect the Gulf, Shaykh Sabah said: We have gone to the Security Council to complete all our political affairs and so that nobody can say we have done something before acquainting others with what we want to do, bearing in mind that we are responsible for our territorial waters and properties, such as oil tankers; if compelled, then we are ready for confrontation.

In reply to another question on whether the Gulf states have requested new military assistance from European countries such as France and Britain to bolster their protection with sophisticated weapons, particularly air defence, he said: Request for weapons is nothing new because we in the Arab world do not manufacture weapons. We have asked both the East and the West for weapons [as received] — Russian, U.S., French and British weapons; in Kuwait in particular, we have concluded

deals with all these countries. Concerning his visit to Japan while leading an Arab delegation, and regarding reports that Japan will be asked to adopt pressure on Iran or be threatened with economic sanctions, Shaykh Sabah said: Please let us not talk about this subject on the basis of threats. We are not going to Japan to threaten it but because Japan has relations with our countries and with Iran. We seek an understanding that the war is not in Japan's interest, and because it has great interests in all states of the region, Japan should use some of its influence and intervene to do something to stop the war. In reply to a question regarding what is wanted from Japan, he said: This is precisely what talks between us and the Japanese will deal with in order to clarify the path which Japan will take.

Shaykh Sabah was then asked: Has dialogue with Iran been cut off, and can a fruitful dialogue be established with Iran? He replied: Since the outbreak of the war, dialogue with Iran has not been cut off. I have visited Iran and met with Khomeyni. Last year I met with the president of the republic, the president of the Consultative Council, and with the prime minister and foreign minister. In actual fact dialogue has not been cut off as there is a Kuwaiti Embassy in Iran and an Iranian Embassy in Kuwait. We do not expect to find ourselves having severed every relation between us and Iran. He added: Good neighborliness between us and Iran gives us the right to continue this dialogue with our Iranian brothers. We hope that what has occured was a mistake and that all problems will come to an end.

Oil Minister Criticizes U.S. as Gulf War 'Spectator'

LD211004 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Kuwait 21 May (KUNA) Kuwaiti oil and finance minister, Shaykh Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, has criticized the United States for its unlimited support for the continued Israeli aggression on the Arab nation, and its attitude as a spectator in the Iraq-Iran war. He addressed the opening of a symposium on Arab-American economic and trade relations which opened here this morning under the auspices of the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah as-Sabah. Shaykh Ali said any talk about Arab-American cooperation in the economic sphere cannot be serious unless the US Administration draws up a new policy regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict so as to guarantee the establishment of just peace based on the principles of rejection of aggression, safeguarding the dignity of man, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The oil and finance minister added that the Arab States look with astonishment and surprise at the attitude of the United States as a spectator with regard to the Iraq-Iran war, which has now lasted 4 years.

Official to AL-QABAS:U.S. Protection Not Sought

LD211104 Kuwait KUNA in English 1020 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 21 (KUNA) — A high-ranking Kuwaiti official has firmly stressed that Kuwait will not solicit the assistance or the protection of the United States to defend her vessels from Iranian raids.

Acting Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Khalid Ja'far explained to daily *AL-QABAS* Monday that this policy stems from Kuwait's determination on preventing the Gulf region from being open to international struggle and the state's firm adherence to the principles of nonalignment.

Kuwait's only military commitment in that respect, Ja'far emphasized, is with "brotherly" Arab states through the joint Arab defense pact.

In a statement to the Kuwait daily, Ja'far strongly reiterated that "it is not possible for Kuwait to request the protection or help of America or any other country."

Ja'far expects the Security Council to convene in an emergency session next Wednesday or Thursday to examine the Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers.

According to *AL-QABAS*, Kuwait is seeking to extract from the 15-member council a tersely-worded resolution to fend off any future Iranian attacks and see that the world community bears responsibility to prevent a "recurrence of similar incidents."

The newspaper said it learned from "Arab sources [word indistinct] that by hitting Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers, Iran planned to pressure Iraq to lift its siege on shipping oil from Khark Island as Iran started confronting gross economic difficulties owing to the refusal of a large number of oil companies and tankers to carry its oil to world ports. [no closing quotation mark received]

Simultaneously, daily *AL-WATAN*, in a frontpage report said air cover will be provided to shelter oil tankers.

The daily exclusively reported that a technical committee for the GCC Council member states will meet in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Monday to discuss rerouting the lanes of tankers cruising in the Gulf across the Hormuz Straits.

Saudi Defense Minister Sultan Departs 18 May

LD181621 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1526 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 18 May (KUNA) — The second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, of Saudi Arabia, Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait this afternoon at the end of a 4-day cordial visit.

He was seen off by his Kuwaiti counterpart, Shaykh Salim as-Sabah, the Defense Ministry's under secretary 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Khamis, the chief of the General Staff, Major 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanim, senior officers and the assistant defense ministry under secretary, Faysal ad-Dawud.

Prince Sultan expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, Shaykh Salim as-Sabah the minister of defense and to all the people of Kuwait.

The minister of defense, Shaykh Salim as-Sabah said: "There is no doubt that the visit had political and family dimensions."

In replying to a question about the recent aggressions against the Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers, Shaykh Salim said: "This issue was a part of what we discussed, and we left the subject to the foreign ministers who conferred yesterday in Riyadh."

In replying to a question on whether there is an intention to hold a meeting for the ministers of defense, he said: "This depends on what the politicians decide, because the meetings and movements of the defense ministers lead to many things, and God willing, we will not move or be forced to do so."

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia To Step Up Air Defenses

GF190548 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 19 May 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are to step up their defence readiness to guard against air attacks on shipping on the Arab side of the Gulf, the *MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY* reported yesterday. The newsletter said the decision resulted from last week's consultations on Gulf defence both on the level of the GCC and bilaterally between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The defences would be geared to provide adequate air cover against aerial attacks on shipping in Saudi and Kuwaiti offshore areas, according to the report.

Gulf Situation Explained to PRC Envoy, Others

LD191335 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1158 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 19 May (KUNA) — The acting Foreign Ministry under secretary, Khalid Muhammad Ja'far, met today with the Chinese ambassador to Kuwait, Yang Fuchang. After the meeting, Ja'far made a statement to KUNA. He said the meeting was within the sphere of the efforts made by Kuwait to explain the dimensions of the Iranian attacks on Arab oil tankers in the Gulf and their danger to the regional situation and to world peace. He said discussion during the meeting was a continuation of that at the end of last week. He apologized for not disclosing more details.

Ja'far received the Chinese ambassador on Thursday, when he summoned the ambassadors of the countries having permanent UN Security Council membership to explain the dimensions of the Iranian attacks and to emphasize their danger.

Norwegian Denial on Halting Gulf Activities Cited

LD201348 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1336 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May, KUNA — The Norwegian Embassy here today denied a report circulated by REUTER 2 days ago which said the Norwegian shipowners have decided to halt their navigational activities in the Gulf and have ordered their ships there to leave the region at the earliest possible time. In a statement to KUNA, the embassy said that this news is untrue.

OMAN

U.S. Vice President Bush Meets With Sultan Qabus

GF191344 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received at noon today in Al-'alam Palace Mr George Bush, U.S. vice president, who is currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended from the Omani side by His Highness Thuwayni ibn Shihab, the Sultan's special represenative; Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Major General 'Ali ibn Majid al-Ma'mar, first military companion of His Majesty the Sultan and chief of the Palace office; and the Omani ambassador to the United States. The meeting was attended from the U.S side by the members of the delegation accompanying Mr George Bush.

Receives Officials

GF191346 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] U.S. Vice President George Bush who is currently visiting the Sultanate received this morning in his residence at Al-'Alam Palace Mr Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Major General 'Ali ibn Majid al-Ma'mar, first military companion of His Majesty the Sultan and chief of the palace office.

Departs 20 May

GF200905 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] U.S. Vice President George Bush and his accompanying delegation left the country this morning after a 3-day visit to the Sultanate, during which Bush met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

SAUDI ARABIA

Iran Asked To Stop Attacks on Oil Tankers

LD210902 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 May 84

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, has called on Iran to adhere to the links of religion and good neighborliness and to stop attacking oil tankers in international and territorial waters in the Arabian Gulf.

The war between Iraq and Iran has continued for 44 months. It was inevitable that psychological factors would play an effective role in the development of this war. However, the psychological factor on the Iranian side seems to have passed the stage of depression. This makes it easy for a person to deal with despair. It does not bother such a person if he increases the number of his foes or of those who criticize his behavior. Therefore, Iran's

attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers in international waters demonstrates its wish to extend the range opf the war, adding the fuel of human lives to the fire raging in both Iran and Iraq.

As his highness the foreign minister said, despite all efforts over the past 4 years, and despite all Arab, Islamic and international mediation, an end to the war has not been achieved. It is clear that the war is a severe crack in the wall of Islamic solidarity which all of us are seeking to strengthen. This remark should inevitably bring back to memory, or to the conscience, of every person his responsibility for stopping this war in which the only loser will be the Islamic nation because the human and material energies being lost are Islamic energies which the nation desperately needs to preserve in the face of many challenges. Then along come a few of the Islamic nation's sons who want to exhaust these energes, and even to extend the range of this war.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council are aware of their responsibilities toward this war, which are to remain neutral and to continue the serious and patient work of searching for a formula to end this bloodshed.

It is regrettable that these efforts should be met with attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers, probably expressing a desire to create a new reality to be added to the already regrettable and tragic reality. No human can accept or submit to this.

Pakistani Defense Minister Talpur Arrives 18 May

LD182042 Riyadh SPA in English 1903 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Riyadh, May 18, SPA — Pakistani Defence Minister Ali Ahmad Talpur arrived here tonight leading a military delegation from his country on a few days visit to Saudi Arabia. General Talpur will hold talks with Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier and defence and aviation minister, and senior Saudi military officials. During his stay in the Kingdom, Talpur will visit a number of Saudi military installations and units.

On his arrival Talpur was greeted by Prince Sultan, defence and aviation minister; Prince 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, assistant deputy defence minister; assistant deputy defence and aviation minister for military affairs 'Uthman al-Humayd; and chief of staff of the Saudi Armed Forces General Muhammad as-Salih al-Hamad and senior military officials.

Talks With Prince Sultan

LD191303 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1122 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Riyadh, 19 May (SPA) — Second deputy prime minister and minister of defence and aviation, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, met today with Pakistani Defense Minister Ali Ahmad Talpur. During the meeting, his royal highness and the Pakistani defence minister reviewed aspects of existing cooperation between the two countries and exchanged symbolic gifts. The meeting was attended by the deputy minister of defense and aviation for military affairs, 'Uthman al-Humayd, and the Pakistani ambassador to the kingdom, Najim Saqeb Khan.

Calls for More Cooperation

LD201406 Riyadh SPA in English 1246 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Riyadh, May 20, SPA — Pakistani Defence Minister Ali Ahmad Talpur has said his current visit to Saudi Arabia was aimed at enhancing existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Pakistan. In a statement to SPA, Talpur called for more cooperation between Islamic countries to liberate Islamic shrines in Palestine and territories of Afghanistan. The Pakistani defence minister hailed the Kingdom's role and efforts to achieve the Islamic nation's unity and expressed Pakistan's support in this connection.

Commenting on the latest escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, Talpur said his country was looking forward for a speedy end to the war between brothers and reiterated Islamabad's opposition to any attack on oil tankers or installations in the Gulf waters.

Defense Minister Returns From Kuwait Visit

LD181629 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 18 May (SPA) — Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, returned home this evening from Kuwait at the end of his visit there lasting several days.

Interviewed on Gulf Situation

LD191415 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 19 May (SPA) Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard, this morning attended the King Faysal Air Academy's graduation ceremony for the 26th class of cadets. He arrived at 0900 and was welcomed by Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minsiter and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general. Following the ceremony, Prince Sultan made a statement to the press.

Asked whether the defence ministers of the GCC would be summoned to discuss the latest developments in the region, Prince Sultan said: I do not think so. There is no reason to ask the defense ministers to meet as coordination continues.

Asked the comment on the recent events in the Gulf region and the measures the GCC member countries can take, Prince Sultan said, I believe they will be natural and expected. I believe we must not start to shake over a tanker. We must be on the alert and ready to face up to bigger matters than this. Asked about the adoption of measures to protect oil tankers, Prince Sultan affirmed we must realize that complete protection comes from God Almighty. Everyone is liable to exposure to something, but there should be a punishment for anyone who encroaches on the rights of the nation. Asked about his talks with the Pakistani defense minister, he said that they will deal with the development of cooperation and the relations between the Kingdom and Pakistan. Asked about the need for the convocation of an Arab summit conference on the current conditions, he replied that the foreign ministers were meeting at present in Tunisia for this purpose.

AR-RIYAD Comments on Arab Ministers Meeting

GF201034 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 May 84

[From press review]

[Excerpt] The newspaper *AR-RIYAD* commented on the current situation in the Gulf region, which involves escalation of the Iraq-Iran dispute and the attempt to expand the war zone.

The newspaper said that the attempt to escalate the war through crazy means and by hitting oil tankers inside the regional waters of the Gulf countries is regarded as a serious development which might result in superpower interference in the region under the pretext of protecting their interests.

The newspaper said: The emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis comes when the battle is at its beginning. Thus, the situation should be regarded as a threat to all the Arab interests.

AR-RIYAD affirmed the importance of having one Arab response to all that threatens the fate of the Arab nation. It pointed out that the call of His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti foreign affairs minister, for the Arab states' moral and practical commitment to the Arab defense charter, stems from the same principle by which the Gulf countries voluntarily abided out of their sense of Arab responsibility.

UAE

AL-BAYAN Notes Tankers Waiting at Gulf Entrance

LD201044 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0952 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 May (KUNA) — *AL-BAYAN*, published in Dubai today, mentions that international oil tankers going to the ports of the Gulf to ship oil from the various export ports are stopping at the entrance to the Gulf opposite the eastern shore of the UAE and the ports of the Sultanate of Oman. They are waiting there for the settlement of the critical situation after the recent events in the region and the bombing operations against oil tankers until they receive new instructions from the companies which own them.

The director general of Fujayrah port, Captain Frank Ravenscroft, told the newspaper the number of tankers which are currently present is not known and cannot be ascertained because they are standing far outside the territorial waters which reach 25 miles. "But with the naked eye about nine supertankers can be seen stopping inside the Sultanate of Oman's territorial waters because they pay less fees there.

He stressed the current situation justifies again the importance of the GCC project to lay a pipeline to the eastern coast to secure supplies and face up to such a sensitive situation.

He pointed out that last October GCC experts carried out an extensive study on the circumstances and possibilities of the ports of the eastern region and of the Sultanate of Oman to build a strategic food reserve for the council's countries in addition to the pipeline, which is considered a most important and serious project especially in view of current circumstances.

He said the experts will decide during the coming 3 weeks which port will be chosen for the stategic food reserve project.

AL-ITTIHAD Warns Against Foreign Interference in Gulf

GF201323 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 May (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* warned against the threat of international interference in the Gulf region under the cover of protecting the freedom of navigation in the Gulf, which could end in the imposition by superpowers of control and influence on the region and permanent hegemony over the Gulf waters, land, people, resources, and capabilities.

The newspaper said: Western media from the very beginning called this war "the Gulf war" and not the Iraqi-Iranian war. This was nothing more than a deliberate attempt to predict the future of this war or an expression of their desire for it to take. They could have contained it before it was too late, but they intended to prolong this war so that it would go from merely being a war on the borders of two countries into a more expanded war as a result of the two sides asking for help or rescue.

The newspaper affirmed there is a secret war behind this war, the effects of which have begun to be seen throughout the Gulf. The two warring countries are plunging headlong into this war unwillingly. Clandestine but known arms supplies reach both sides from unexpected sources and sides which have no political relations or joint interests between them and the warring countries.

AL-ITTIHAD warned against those who are taking the war to a point of no return according to prior planning and scheming and now cry about freedom of navigation in the Gulf so they can achieve their supreme goal which is to return the Gulf to the era of protectors, foremost of these being the United States which has begun to gather its allies for joint interference when the time comes. The newspaper stressed they are now working to prepare the atmosphere for such interference, pointing out at the same time that they began to prepare forces for rapid deployment in the Gulf even before the outbreak of the Gulf war because they were getting ready for such a day, particularly after the October war when the Gulf countries announced that Arab oil is less precious than Arab blood. This had a political and strategic significance which did not please those who wanted to control the Arabs' oil, blood, lives, and political decisions.

AL-ITTIHAD concluded its editorial by stressing the importance of alertness against this danger and taking an approach which will lead us to the right stance toward all taking place around us, because the real threat is international interference. That is, the use of this crisis by a state or a group of superpowers in order to gain control and influence because of economic, political and strategic reasons which ensure permanent hegemony over the Gulf waters, land, people, resources, and capabilities.

KHALEEJ TIMES Backs Diplomatic Effort on Gulf

GF201158 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 20 May 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Retaining Arab Initiative"]

[Text] The AGCC states have already expressed their deep concern over the current situation in the Gulf which their foreign ministers described at a meeting on Thursday as representing an escalation of tension in the area. They condemned the Iranian aggression against Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers last week, declared — in one of the strongest statements to be made by the AGCC since the Iran-Iraq war began — that aggression against any one member of the Council will be considered as directed against all six member states, and decided to take the issue to the UN Security Council. The AGCC ministers are now attending a meeting of all Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis so that a joint approach to the crisis can be worked out. While the AGCC states realise that it is primarily their responsibility to guard against the immediate dangers created by the new turn in the Gulf war, with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia already reportedly agreeing to step up defence coordination, they would wish any major new political initiative to tackle the basic issue of the war to have larger Arab backing.

Meanwhile, two other developments have taken place that can only create further apprehensions. A tanker was actually sunk in the Gulf yesterday. Others had been strafed and damaged but none had so far been lost. The sunken tanker was hit by a missile in the war zone declared by Iraq around Iran's Khark oil terminal. Secondly, an Iranian leader has talked of the imminence of an 'extremely momentous development' in the region. Whether this presages the launching of the "summer offensive" promised by Iran or something else only the rulers in Tehran will know. What would be hoped is that the "momentous development" will not turn out to be something that would exacerbate the situation and provide a pretext for any outside intervention in the Gulf. This is something which every ounce of energy must be used to prevent because once it happens — even in the form of an air cover provided by an outside power — it will surely assume a menacing dynamism of its own and while it may make shipping safer for a time, it will have devastating long-term consequences. It is good that so far the emphasis in world capitals still favours "vigorous diplomacy over military action," (U.S. State Department spokesman) and this should continue to be the method used. How military action can be prevented and diplomacy given new vigour — this indeed is the question before the Arab League meeting in Tunis and this is what makes it so important. It has to ensure that the initiative remains with the Arabs.

Government To Protest Israeli Measures

NC211455 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA) — Egypt has again voiced its extreme denunciation of and indignation over the mass annihilation campaigns that Israel has been persistently carrying out against the Palestinian people, both in the Arab territories occupied after 1967 and in the occupied southern Lebanese territory. Egypt also denounced and condemned the demolition of houses, which constitutes a blatant violation of human rights.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today commissioned Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid with summoning the Israeli ambassador in Cairo and with conveying to him Egypt's denunciation and views on all these inhumane and illegal measures. Kamal Hasan 'Ali told MENA that Egypt strongly denounces Israel's practices and regards them as a flagrant violation of all human rights and of the Geneva conventions. He said Egypt has asked Israel to immediately refrain from this policy and measures, which violate all laws and are regarded as an uncivilized action against the inhabitants of the occupied territories.

He said Egypt has also emphasized to Israel that the continuation of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is one of the major reasons for the difficulties facing its inhabitants, as well as the main and basic reason for the continued tension in the region.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also sent urgent instructions to Ambassador Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil, Egypt's chief UN delegate, to participate in the debates that the UN Security Council will conduct on Israel's inhumane and uncivilized measures, and deliver an address expressing Egypt's condemnation of Israel's measures, which blatantly violate all international agreements.

Angola's Dos Santos Sends Message to Mubarak

MB171326 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] A message from Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, was delivered last Sunday to Husni Mubarak, Egyptian head of state, by Carlos Almeida, Angolan ambassador to Egypt.

During President Mubarak's meeting with the Angolan diplomat, the latter discussed recent achievements, peace efforts in southern Africa, and the (?intensive) combat for the annihilation of armed bandits working for South Africa. Carlos Almeida also reiterated the official position in regard to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

Mubarak, U.S. Ambassador Veliotes Meet 20 May

NC200754 Cairo MENA in English 0730 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Cairo, May 29 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received this morning American Ambassador here Nicolas Veliotes. The meeting was attended by Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Dr Wajih Shindi and director of the USAID office here Michael Stone.

Mubarak on Gulf War, Upcoming Elections

NC201408 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1256 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA) — Replying to a question during his inspection today of the water plant in Rawd al-Faraj, regarding the escalation of the Gulf war and Egypt's role in that respect, President Husni Mubarak said Egypt has exerted its utmost and has submitted an initiative to the Nonaligned Movement to put an end to this escalation which could cause a great catastrophe in the area. The president expressed his belief that if the Nonaligned Movement fails to solve this problem, and if all the countries in the world do not cooperate with it, then the consequences will be disastrous for the entire world. Answering another question on the guarantees the president is providing to make the forthcoming elections in Egypt honest and candid, his excellency said: I have given the most guarantees that I can give. I do not involve myself in this direction [ittijah] or that direction. Each individual must exert his utmost efforts. President Mubarak said he will congratulate the winners.

Ghazalah Comments on War

NC201527 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 20 May (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, said it is unlikely that the Iraq-Iran war will end soon. He expressed the hope that the Egyptian initiative will succeed in ending this war. The defense minister added that the recent escalation, represented by Iran's attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti vessels, has greatly aggravated the situation in that region. He said: We hope the situation will be controlled in order to avert any intervention by the superpowers. Any such intervention would bring about the closure of the Gulf and would consequently make the situation extremely serious, both for the West and the East. In his statements to military correspondents while attending today's naval maneuvers, Abu Ghazalah said Egypt's position is not to send any Egyptian troops abroad. The only exception is Sudan, in view of the joint defense treaty between the two countries, but only if Sudan comes under external attack. He said Egypt will only send troops to Sudan upon the latter's request.

Saddam Husayn on Relations With USSR, Arab Nations

JN201235 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1113 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that the United States wants to keep Iraq away from its national independence and away from the Soviet Union. It also believes that Iran will certainly seek its help due to armament considerations and previous relations.

In a statement to the [Kuwaiti] newspaper *AL-ANBA'*, published here today, he added that Israel is concerned to destroy the eastern front. Israel, he said, does not tolerate the military, industrial, or cultural advancement of any Arab state. Consequently, it attacked the nuclear reactor Tammuz. He indicated that Iran is fighting with Western weapons supplied to it by Israel or any state that has no interest in seeing Iraq a strong Arab country. Regarding the Iraqi-Soviet relations, the president said: Our relationship with the Soviet Union is good at present. We are receiving aid from it in the form of arms, a matter for which we express our thanks. Our friendship with the Soviet Union is emphasized by the joint struggle against imperialism and for national liberation. Our relations today could not be better. Regarding the Arab stance toward the war, the president said that Iraq does take into consideration in its military or economic calculations an Arab stance that has not been implemented. He said: We cannot base a plan on promises. Weapons or forces must arrive in Iraq before we can include them in our plan. Financial aid cannot be included in our plan before the funds reach the central bank.

He indicated that the stance of the Arab countries in general is encouraging, except for the stance of Libya and Syria, which extend political and military aid to Iran. He said that the Gulf states realize the importance of ending the war and that there are follow-up committees coordinated by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz that meet once every month.

Regarding relations between Iraq and Egypt, President Saddam Husayn said: When we talk about a relationship between Cairo and Baghdad, we view the matter from a pan-Arab perspective. The Iraqi Army has participated in all Arab battles. However, we do not ask Egypt now to do what the circumstances prohibit.

Undoubtedly, we are looking forward to Egypt's return to the pan-Arab arena —an Egypt that is capable of rejection, that is fortified with the people's support, that is interacting on the pan-Arab level. Egypt will never be absent from the Arab decision or pan-Arab security.

On the internal situation in Iraq, President Saddam Husayn said: There is no issue on which we concentrate and another we neglect. The elements of life are not based only on military aspects, but also on economic, political, cultural, and other aspects. Therefore, we are dealing equally with all these elements. He indicated that Iraq is continuing its construction and development plan despite 44 months of a war which will not rob Iraq of its will to build and develop its society. The president expressed Iraq's constant readiness to reach a peace agreement that is based on the respect of national independence and noninterference in others' international affairs.

Ramadan: Khark Island Siege To Be Expanded

JN191133 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Al-'Amarah, 19 May (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, commander in chief of the Popular Army, has stated that the operation of the siege imposed on Iran will be expanded in the next 3 months. Ramadan added that this Iraqi decision is not concerned with inflicting harm on anybody, but is the reply which the Iranian rulers understand and one which will force them to give in to peace and to reality. In a meeting with the fighters of the Popular Army Command in the Maysan Governorate, Ramadan said that Iraq's decision to continue its economic siege of Iran, specifically paralyzing its oil exports and its trade movement, is a permanent one. Ramadan added that the results of the Iraqi siege imposed on Iran are now evident. He stressed that Iranian oil exports have decreased by 55 percent and that these results influence the Iranian regime's behavior when it strikes at Arab oil tankers.

Ramadan said he believes Iraq's commitment to the UN Security Council resolution of 28 September 1980 and President Saddam Husayn's speech on the same day on the need for a cease-fire to seek ways to achieve peace and stop bloodshed both confirm that Iraq is not sustaining any harm and is not affected by the prolongation of the war. Ramadan said that Iraq is ready to cooperate in seeking ways to achieve peace. Iraq denies that these ways may lead to tying the Iraqis' hands, or may enable Iran to harm Iraq and exhaust its military and economic resources. Ramadan stressed the current year must produce important results which will influence all aspects of the war, and the next 6 months can have greater influence on the war than the past 5 months. He said the responsibility for a positive move to end the war belongs to the international community, which has either remained a bystander or has materially benefited from the war and has gained future strategic interests in Iran and Iraq. He said that this situation is behind the prolongation of the war.

Armed Forces General Command Communiques

No 1,469 - 18 May

JN181646 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Communique No 1,469 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 18 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The brave sons of our Armed Forces are continuing their valiant activities and splendid victories in defense of great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. With the help of Almighty God and with splendid success, an air strike was carried out at dawn today against two large naval targets south of Khark Island off the Iranian coast. They were hit directly and very effectively and set ablaze. Our aircraft returned safely to base with their heroic hawks after accomplishing the mission, praise be to God.

2. One of our forward units carried out concentrated artillery strikes against the enemy positions and troop assembly points in the operational area east of Basra, killing or wounding four enemy soldiers, destroying one observation post, and setting enemy positions afire.

3. Today our bold helicopter gunships attacked several enemy positions and assembly points in the operational area east of Basra, destroying four assembly points and inflicting human and material losses. All our helicopter gunships returned safely, praise be to God.

4. One of our forward units engaged with various types of weapons the enemy positions, vehicles, and troops opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing two, wounding others, and destroying three fuel reservoirs, one excavator, one large truck, one vehicle, one observation post, and two personnel positions.

5. One of our forward units opened artillery fire on an enemy troop concentration in the east Tigris operational sector, killing four, wounding others, and destroying one vehicle.

6. One was killed and one 106-mm gun and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

7. One infantry position was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

8. Today, the criminal Khomeyniite regime shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs with heavy artilelry, damaging two houses in Basra, and wounding one woman, destroying one house, and setting four orchards afire in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 May 1984

No 1,470 - 19 May

JN191617 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 May 84

[Communique No 1,470 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 19 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their daring operations at the front against the unjust Khomeyniite regime, which is insisting on war, expansion, and aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various kinds of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations east of Basra destroying three positions for infantry and weapons, one boat, and one observation post. Our units also set ablaze a number of enemy postions.

2. Our helicopters today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forward positions east of Basra destroying five troop assembly positions and one boat. All our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Sighting a group of enemy soldiers opposite its forward positions in the northern sector of the front, one of our units opened artillery fire killing one and destroying one infantry position.

4. One was killed in the central sector of the front.

5. Our forces destroyed and set ablaze one vehicle and one emplacement for weapons in the Maysan sector.

6. The criminal Iranian regime today shelled Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, and their environs with heavy artillery. The savage shelling martyred 1 civilian, injured 6 others, and damaged 1 civilian car in Basra; injured 1 woman, destroyed 3 houses, damaged 14 others, 1 car, and a number of gardens in Khanaqin; and damaged 4 houses, 1 elementary school, and 1 garden in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 May 1984.

No 1,471 - 20 May

JN201617 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 84

[Communique No 1,471 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 20 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have continued their forceful operations at the front against the forces of the suspect Iranian regime. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy positions, troop concentrations, and engineering equipment east of Basra, killing five, wounding others, and destroying one vehicle, four infantry positions, and two observation posts.

2. Sighting a number of enemy men and vehicles opposite their positions in the central sector of the front, our forward units opened fire. Three were killed, others wounded, and two vehicles, two emplacements for personnel and weapons, and one hardware stockpile were destroyed.

3. In the northern sector of the front, new groups of Iranians who fled charlatan Khomeyni's inferno and the oppression of his regime sought refuge with our units. They were safely and peacefully evacuated to the rear. One infantry position was destroyed in another area of the same sector.

4. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

5. The criminal enemy artillery shelled Basra, Mandali, Darband-e Khan, and their environs last night and today. The shelling damaged a house in Basra, a shop and a house in Mandali, and a number of civilian establishments in Darband-e Khan.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 May 1984.

Radio Cites REUTER on Sinking of Merchant Ship
GF191100 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Shipping sources today admitted that one of the two naval targets that were successfully hit by Iraqi planes on the dawn of 18 May has sunk near the Iranian oil terminal in Khark Island today.

REUTER reported that the merchant ship *Fidelity* was hit by a missile and that 21 of its crew were picked up by another ship while 12 others are still in lifeboats.

Citing shipping sources in the Arabian Gulf, REUTER reported that a message sent by *Fidelity* through another ship in the area was received at dawn today. REUTER did not give any details on *Fidelity*'s cargo or nationality, but merely said that it was hit by a missile and sank near the oil terminal in the Iranian island of Khark.

Lloyd's Shipping Company sources said that the 16,667-ton ship *Fidelity* is Panamanian-registered. The captain of another ship in the area said that *Fidelity* was on its way to the Iranian port of Bandar-e Khomeyni at the mouth of the Gulf and that its cargo is steel.

Foreign Minister To Visit Tokyo 'This Week'
JN181602 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 May (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a representative of the Saudi foreign minister will visit Tokyo this week within the framework of the mission defined by the seven-member committee.

'Ubaydat Receives Cables of Support

JN181854 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat has received cables from a number of tribal chieftains and dignitaries, presidents of trade unions, and citizens in which they voiced support for the statement which he made before the House of Representatives.

In these cables, they affirmed their rallying around His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership. The cables also expressed support for the government's measures and steps to ensure Jordan's security and stability. The cables also praised the mutual frankness and confidence between the government and the House of Representatives and everybody's concern about the higher interests in order to enable this steadfast country to achieve its noble objectives.

'Responsible Source' Denies Libyan Allegations

JN190750 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 19 May 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* — A responsible source has denied Libyan allegations that Jordan trains elements to carry out violent attacks against Libya.

In a statement to the BBC, the responsible source said that these allegations published yesterday, Friday, by the official Libyan news agency JANA are a complete fabrication to cover up recent events in Libya.

The source said that Jordan neither plans nor encourages such acts against any Arab country.

Iraq Oil Minister Arrives in Amman 20 May

JN202002 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi arrived in Amman this evening on an official visit of several days. During the visit he will hold talks on ways to develop bilateral cooperation. In a statement to a PETRA-JNA correspondent, Taqi said that the visit is part of the meetings held by the two countries' officials and that this visit would deal with developing economic and trade cooperation relations between the two fraternal countries in order to bolster the exchange of various commodities, including crude oil and oil by-products.

Asked about the pipeline to be established across Jordanian territory, Taqi said: Details concerning this pipeline will be discussed in the bilateral meetings held during this visit and some information about this project will be gathered. The minister also praised Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in the field of oil exploration in the Kingdom, and said that the Iraqi team that is working in this fied has achieved good results. The guest minister was received by Minister of Industry, Trade, and Tourism Jawad al-'Anani, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Benin Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 19 May

JN191846 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The foreign minister of the People's Republic of Benin arrived in Amman this evening on a 3-day visit to Jordan during which the guest minister will hold talks with officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism, and the Ministry of Health on means of strengthening and developing cooperation between Jordan and Benin in all fields.

The guest minister was met at Queen Alia International Airport by Mrs Layla Sharaf, information minister and acting foreign minister; the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; and the director of the Political Department and the director of protocol in the ministry.

Hasan, Sharaf Receive Minister

JN201250 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan this afternoon received the foreign minister of the People's Republic of Benin, who is currently on an official visit to Jordan.

Mrs Layla Sharaf, information minister and acting foreign minister, received the foreign minister of the People's Republic of Benin at the Foreign Ministry. The two sides discussed the situation in Africa and the Middle East and ways of bolstering Afro-Arab cooperation. The two ministers expressed the desire to bolster bilateral relations between Jordan and Benin on all levels.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry's secretary general and head of its Political Department.

Transportation Minister Returns From Baghdad

JN201907 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Jordan's Minister of Transportation Tahir Hikmat returned to Amman this evening after leading Jordan's delegation to the Iraqi-Jordanian land transport organization's meetings that ended in Baghdad today. The two sides signed minutes of the organization's meetings in order to develop transportation relations between the two fraternal countries and to serve their joint interests. They also approved the organization's general budget and the decisions made by the board of directors.

Cabinet Meets 19 May, Approves Policy Statement

NC190948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 May 84

[Dispatch by Beirut radio correspondent George Daw from the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya — recorded]

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met at the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya at 1030 today under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil, with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the ministers attending. The Cabinet's fifth session was preceded by a 15-minute meeting between President al-Jumayyil and Minister Walid Junblatt in the presence of former Minister Khalid Junblatt.

A ministerial source expressed the hope that the Cabinet will today approve the final text of the policy statement. There will be no amendments to the bases and principles contained in the draft statement, which was approved by the ministerial committee last Monday. However, certain clauses will be rephrased in conformity with the desire to find a new charter for Lebanon. The source added that the text of the statement is in harmony with the principles agreed upon by the Lebanese, particularly those discussed at the national dialogue conferences in Geneva and Lausanne and at the Damascus summit between Presidents al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad. The government's policy statement will center on the security and Army questions; on the reopening of crossing points, roads, Beirut port, and the airport; and on the south. The Cabinet is expected to add final amendments to the statement in light of the amendments proposed by Camille Sham'un which do not affect its substance.

In the event the statement is approved today, the ministerial source believes Prime Minister Karami will immediately contact Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad to set a date for the Cabinet to ask the Chamber for a vote of confidence.

Confidence Vote Soon

NC191252 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] At its long session today, the government of national unity approved the draft policy statement with all its clauses. It is expected that the date for the vote of confidence will be fixed in the next 2 days. The Cabinet met in Bikfayya at 1030. After the session, which ended a short while ago, Prime Minister Rashid Karami said the following:

[Begin recording] The Cabinet has approved the draft policy statement with all its points and principles. Following this, we will contact the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to agree on a date for holding a session to debate the statement and to obtain a vote of confidence.

On this occasion, I wish to assure all those who care for the country's interests and security that the salvation march will continue until security and peace are established in Lebanon. Thank you. [end recording]

Policy Statement Emphasizes Security

NC192000 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Informed sources say that the policy statement on the basis of which the government will seek a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies deals with the reasons for the war and notes the factors and developments that led to the formation of the 10-member Cabinet, the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, and to the situation in the south.

The statement emphasizes the need to start negotiations to draft security arrangements that will lead to the withdrawal of the Israelis from the south. The statement also pays tribute to the uprising of the southerners and refers to the need for the establishment of an indigenous security force to fill the security vacuum in the south.

After the introduction, the statement deals with the political reforms agreed upon during the dialogue conferences in Geneva and Lausanne and in the Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting. The reforms cover political, administrative, and legislative aspects. They call for defining the powers of the president and the prime minister, increasing the number of the members of the Chamber of Deputies, defining the role and task of the security services, adopting administrative decentralization, and developing the various areas. Government sources say that the reforms mentioned in the statement are known and that there is nothing new in them.

The informed sources said that after the Karami Cabinet receives a vote of confidence, it will begin intensive contacts through diplomatic channels, particularly with the United States, to start negotiations for drafting security arrangements in the south with Israel.

The informed sources expect the prime minister or a high-ranking official to visit Saudi Arabia and a number of Gulf states to discuss financial aid to Lebanon in order to bolster the Lebanese economy.

'Usayran Reports No Agreement on Army Issue

NC181314 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] In an exclusive statement to the Voice of Arab Lebanon, Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran stressed that there is no agreement yet on the Army issue. Asked about the government policy statement, he denied the existence of problems, except for the wording.

Minister 'Usayran revealed that the policy statement does not include any definite measures on liberating the south. He said this issue will be discussed later in order to take the appropriate measures. Regarding the enemy's arbitrary measures in the south and western Al-Biqa', Minister 'Usayran said:

[Begin recording] The government's position is this: It is aware of what is going on but cannot do anything. But, God willing, it will be able to do something in the future. [end recording]

Karami Receives Soviet Ambassador; Both Comment
NC181142 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami received at his office in the Government House this morning Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov, during which they discussed the current Lebanese developments. Prime Minister Karami had the following to say after the meeting:

[Begin recording] I have received his excellency the Soviet ambassador, who forwarded to me a friendly message from the Soviet Council of Ministers. I thanked him and asked him to convey my greetings and appreciation for this friendly stand. I also seized this opportunity to exchange views on the difficult circumstances through which we are passing, and on the steps that we intend to take for the sake of liberating our land and sovereignty from the Israeli occupation. We assess every state's position toward our cause on the basis of the help that this state gives us for the sake of this Lebanese national issue. Our government, which is the government of national unity, will take serious and painstaking steps for the sake of attaining this objective about which there can be no dispute by even two sons of our noble people.

Therefore, we appeal to our citizens in particular to rally around their common interest, because our salvation lies in our cooperation. The struggles that have driven us to our present status represent the line of those who deny us our welfare and dignity so that they can play havoc with our security and fate. Let us learn the lessons of history as this may guide our steps. Thanks. [end recording]

The Soviet ambassador then said:

[Begin recording — Soviet ambassador Soldatov's answers in Russian with simultaneous Arabic translation] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Ambassador, did you convey a specific message from the Soviet leaders to Prime Minister Karami?

[Soldatov] Yes, we did.

[Reporter] Can we learn the contents of the message?

[Soldatov] It is up to the prime minister to divulge the contents of the message or not.

[Reporter] What is your attitude toward the recently formed government of national unity under Prime Minister Karami?

[Soldatov] The Soviet Union's stand is that we wish every success to the government of national unity. We personally also wish His Excellency Prime Minister Rashid Karami every success in performing his noble mission in his post as prime minister. We believe that everything must be done so that Lebanon will be a united, independent, and sovereign state.

[Reporter] Did you invite Prime Minister Karami to visit the Soviet Union?

[Soldatov] His Excellency Prime Minister Rashid Karami does not need an invitation to visit the Soviet Union. He has an open invitation to visit the Soviet Union always. Should he decide to come, he will be welcomed.

[Reporter] There has been increasing information about military reinforcements in Al-Biqa' by both the Israeli and the Syrian sides. What information do you have and what is your stand on the existing tension?

[Soldatov] Our stand, as we have often said, is that the Israeli aggressor must leave the Lebanese territories immediately and unconditionally. This is our stand and our policy. We believe that they should leave your territories whether in the south or in Al-Biqa'.

[Reporter] What is your stand on the events that took place in the Gulf during the past few hours [Iraqi planes attacked naval targets near Khark Island]?

[Soldatov] I cannot say that I am familiar with the details of the situation in the Gulf. In general, we can say that the Soviet Union's stand on the situation in the Gulf is that the situation there should return to its peaceful state. We support all peaceful efforts in the Gulf.

[Reporter] Do you support the establishment of security arrangements between Lebanon and Israel?

[Soldatov] We support only one thing, namely, that Israel should withdraw on the grounds that it is the aggressor and occupier. This is the best method and best measure for achieving security.

[Reporter] In light of the recent developments in the Middle East, does the Soviet Union still have the same stand on convening an international conference on the Middle East?

[Soldatov] Yes, we support the convening of such a conference. [end recording]

Franjiyah Receives Message, Envoy of Al-Asad
NC201404 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1306 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] At noon today, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah received Syrian President al-Asad's envoy, Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, director of the office of Syrian Voice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. It was reported that Al-Haj 'Ali conveyed to President Franjiyah a message from President al-Asad on the latest developments in Lebanon.

Further on Meeting
NC210735 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah has received a letter from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The letter, which deals with Lebanese domestic policy, was given [date not specified] to President Franjiyah by Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali,

deputy director of the Syrian president's office. President Franjiyah and President al-Asad's envoy held a lengthy meeting that lasted approximately 2 and 1/2 hours. Robert Franjiyah attended a part of this meeting.

Following his meeting with President Franjiyah, Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, President al-Asad's emissary, said: I have given his Excellency President Franjiyah a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, and President Franjiyah in turn has given me a reply letter. The letters deal with Lebanese domestic policies.

Junblatt Arrives in Damascus 20 May, Meets Khaddam

NC201820 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1800 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt today received Commander of the French Observers Colonel (Monyes), who hinted after the meeting that there is a possibility of increasing the number of observers and of expanding their task to include the mountain area. Walid Junblatt arrived in Damascus this afternoon for talks with Syrian officials. He was received by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam a short while ago. Junblatt said in Damascus that his meeting yesterday with Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram aimed at consolidating the cease-fire in Lebanon.

Artillery Emplacement Shells East, West Beirut

NC182045 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Amidst the current relative calm, our correspondent reports that the Security Arrangements Committee has been informed by a French observer that a 120-mm artillery emplacement near the As-Sidawi gas depot in Al-Awza'i shelled both the eastern and western parts [of Beirut]. It shelled the Al-Masalih Barracks and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah in East Beirut and Shatila and Ash-Shiyah in West Beirut.

Report Gunmen Seize Observers' Positions Denied

VOL Reports Roadblock Set Up

NC190506 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Reports reaching us from West Beirut say gunmen belonging to the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] seized the positions of the observers and the Internal Security Forces in the Al-Barbir area. The gunmen, according to the reports, also set up an armed roadblock, where anyone crossing to West Beirut is searched.

Security Committee Denies Report

NC190522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0508 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] A source in the Security Arrangements Committee and in the Internal Security Forces denied reports carried by a private radio that gunmen have replaced the Internal Security Forces and observers in the Al-Barbir area and have set up barricades in the area. The source said these reports are unfounded and their objective is to cause tension. The source said normal traffic is reported in the Museum-Al-Barbir area in both directions.

Israeli Planes Overfly Beirut, Mountain 20 May

NC200710 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Israeli enemy planes flew over Beirut at 0910 this morning. The purpose of this overflight is currently unknown. The planes then flew toward the mountain. Meanwhile, a guarded calm prevails in various areas.

Israeli Aircraft Bomb Areas in Al-Biqa'

NC201127 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1122 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] We have just received the following from the editorial desk: Israeli aircraft a few minutes ago began bombing the areas of Dayr al-Ghazal and R'it in Al-Biqa'. No further information is available about the Israeli air raid. Smoke columns can be seen in the area as a result of the air raid.

Bomb SAM Missile Base

NC201135 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1126 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] We have now received the following: We have received another unconfirmed report about the Israeli air raid, which we reported a short while ago, that it was carried out against certain positions in Dayr al-Ghazal and R'it in Al-Biqa'. The report says that the Israeli aircraft have bombed a SAM missile base in Dayr al-Ghazal area.

6 Planes Execute Raids

NC201144 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1137 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Six Israeli warplanes carried out air raids at around 1415 today against military positions in Dayr al-Ghazal and R'it. Initial reports say that three aircraft carried out the bombing and three others protected them. A SAM missile base was bombed in Dayr al-Ghazal. As we have said, this is an initial report.

Planes Continue Raids

NC201201 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1156 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Israeli warplanes are still raiding armed positions in the Al-Biqa' area, particularly above Dayr al-Ghazal and R'it in the anti-Lebanon mountain range. They also raided armed positions in Janta.

Red Cross Evacuates Wounded

NC201209 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] We have just received the following report from Al-Biqa': The Red Cross ambulances rushed to the Janta area to help evacuate those wounded as a result of the Israeli air strikes, which, in addition to Janta, included a number of the armed positions on the slope of the anti-Lebanon mountain range.

Destroy Arms Depots

NC201255 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1237 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Our correspondent in the Al-Biqa' has just sent us the following report on the Israeli air strikes: The Israeli air strikes have destroyed arms depots in the area extending from Janta to Duhur an-Nabi Shit. Explosions are still being heard, and flames continue to billow throughout the bombed areas. The wounded have been removed to Ba'labakk hospitals. It should be recalled that the positions of Husayn al-Musawi and his gunmen are located in An-Nabi Shit.

Planes Encounter Antiaircraft Fire

NC201258 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1232 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The [Israeli] enemy warplanes this afternoon raided the areas of Dayr al-Ghazal, Janta and R'it in western Al-Biqa'. They raided certain positions, but no information is yet available on the volume of losses. The planes — two squadrons — were met by anti-aircraft fire which forced them to withdraw towards the south.

Beirut Cites AFP on Raids

NC201318 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1304 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] AFP has reported that Israeli aircraft, at 1400 today, bombed the area of Dayr al-Ghazal to the east of the Al-Biqa' plain — some 4 kilometers from the Syrian borders. The targets of the bombing were unidentifed military positions. The bombing operation was carried out by a squadron of six planes, three of which carried out the bombing while the other three provided them with protection.

Hezbollah Camp Destroyed

NC201345 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided armed positions in R'it, Dayr al-Ghazal, and Janta in Al-Biqa' at approximately 1415. Our correspondent reported that a camp housing Hezbollah armed men in Janta has been completely destroyed as well as arms depots in the area extending from Janta up to An-Nabi Shit. Explosions were heard and flames were seen throughout the bombed areas. Our correspondent managed to identify one of the dead as Husayn Kamil Ayyub and one of the wounded as Husayn Yusuf Shaqar.

Birri Denounces Air Strikes

NC201829 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has denounced today's Israeli air strikes in the Al-Biqa' area which resulted in casualties and losses. He views this attack as an aggression against Lebanese sovereignty and an open attempt to drag the Syrian forces into battles through which the ruling Likud Party in Israel hopes to change the equations in the Israeli election game.

Palestinians Stage Protest March in 'Ayn al-Hulwah

NC181425 Paris AFP in English 1358 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Sidon, south Lebanon, May 18 (AFP) — Thousands of Palestinians marched through the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp south of here today in protest at Israeli occupation of the region after two people were shot dead yesterday, correspondents in the area reported. The Israeli Army said the deaths were caused by rival factions with the camp, the largest in south Lebanon with a 35,000 population, and denied reports published in Beirut that two Palestinians were shot by Israeli bullets.

The United Nations Security Council called an emergency meeting for today after a Palestinian complaint that "dozens" were killed in the camp on Wednesday and Thursday.

After the Friday prayer all the camp dwellers joined the protest march demanding the release of Palestinians held by Israel, and the replacement of the Israeli Army in the region by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon or Lebanese Internal Security Forces, correspondents said. Some called for the death sentence for those within the camp who "collaborated" with Israel, particularly those widely held responsible for one of the shootings yesterday — the National Guard, an Israeli-armed Palestinian militia.

Correspondents reported that the National Guard and Israeli forces did not appear during today's protest. Israeli forces were no longer to be seen around the camp.

Further on Demonstration

NC181728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] A demonstration was staged today in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon against the Israeli enemy's incursion. The enemy's forces raided the camp, destroyed houses, and killed and arrested civilians. The demonstration was staged after the Friday prayers. The camp inhabitants marched in large demonstration demanding the release of the detainees, withdrawal of the enemy, and deployment of the UN emergency force in southern Lebanon.

Israelis Enter Camp

NC200518 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Only sporadic sniper fire was reported last night, and calm currently prevails in all areas of Beirut and its southern suburb. In the south, reports from occupied Sidon say that an Israeli force comprised of two armored vehicles and a tank entered the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp on the pretext of restoring law and order. The Israeli officer asked foreign journalists to leave the camp, and films were confiscated from photographers.

AP reports that children were challenging Israeli soldiers by cheering the PLO.

Journalists who returned to the camp said that the inhabitants told them that the Israelis asked them to remove all barriers and to reconcile with the National Guard which is financed by Israel.

It was reported that at least two people in the camp, including a 5-year child, were wounded by sniper fire originating from outside the camp.

IDF Prevents Ships From Leaving Juniyah

NC181924 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Reliable sources have reported that today Israeli forces prevented ships from leaving Juniyah Port. This action forced all passengers to disembark and return to their homes. The reasons for this Israeli measure in the eastern area are not known.

Israelis Reinforcing Post East of Sidon

NC200512 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Eyewitnesses have reported that an Israeli engineering unit has reinforced the Tallat Mar Ilyas post east of Sidon with electrified barbed wire. The wire is approximately 3 meters high. It should be recalled that a temporary detention camp has been set up at the Mar Ilyas post for the purpose of interrogating detainees before transferring them to Ansar detention camp.

VOL on Syrian Reinforcements; Dissident Disputes

NC200610 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Our correspondent in the Al-Biqa' reports the Syrian forces have brought in fresh military reinforcements and eployed them along the confrontation line with Israel in western Al-Biqa'. They have also brought in Palestinian forces reinforced with 130-mm field artillery to the same area. The reinforcements are concentrated in the (Bayadir al-'Adas) area.

The PFLP-GC [the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command] headed by Ahmad Jibril is sending weapons and equipment to the Al-Murabitun in Al-Biqa'. Our correspondent says that with regard to dissension within the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] organization, it has been learned that the western Al-Biqa' groups support Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] and are opposed to Abu Musa, while the Palestinian groups in Ta'lbaya support Abu Khalid al-'Amlah against the Abu Musa movement. The foregoing reveals that three groups are currently in disagreement: The Abu Musa group, the Abu Salih group, and the Abu Khalid group.

Regarding the situation in Ba'labakk, our correspondent says that tension continues to prevail and is interspersed with clashes between the Hezbollah and Junallah forces on the one hand and the Ba'th Party and the Syrians on the other. It has been learned that the Syrian forces have asked the Hezbollah group to vacate all of their positions, particularly the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks.

Bulgarians, Others Reportedly Training Palestinians

NC210828 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Information has become available to one of our correspondents on the establishment of a Palestinian camp in (Wadi al-Madasbat), in the Ba'labakk District belonging to Ahmad Jibril's PFLP — GC. A number of youths are being trained in terrorist acts at this camp by Red Brigades personnel and DPRK and Bulgarian experts.

RFL Says Iranian Presence Continues in Al-Biqa'

NC181202 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] A security report from Al-Biqa' indicates that a group of Iranian Hezbollah gunmen have left the villages of Brital and An-Nabi Ayla following incidents that took place between them and the Syrian special units. Among those who left Al-Biqa' were 15 Iranians who were spreading Khomeyniism. However, the Iranian presence in other villages and places in the Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil area is unchanged.

Libya Reportedly Intends To Withdraw Forces

NC201040 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Beirut have told the Voice of Lebanon that Libya intends to withdraw its forces from Lebanon shortly in the wake of the recent incidents in Tripoli. Information received by the Voice of Lebanon says that Iran has for some time stopped giving monthly salaries to the Hezbollah gunmen in the Al-Biqa'.

Talas: USSR Prepared To Aid Against U.S.-Israeli Attack

NC190848 Paris AFP in English 0839 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Madrid, May 19 (AFP) — Plans have been drawn up to enable two Soviet divisions to be transported to Damascus within eight hours in the event of any fresh conflict between Syria and Israel, Syrian Defence Minister General Mustafa Talas has said.

In an interview published in the daily *EL PAIS* newspaper here, General Talas emphasised, however, that Syria had no need of Soviet troop aid. He said the Soviets would come to Syria's aid should the United States align itself with Israel in any fresh war. He said the late Soviet Leader Yuriy Andropov promised Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that he would not allow any country to attack Syria.

Mr Andropov also sought Kremlin assurances that Soviet arms could be rushed to Syria "in time," despite reservations by Defence Minister Dmitriy Ustinov and Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko over stepped up arms supplies to Syria, General Talas said.

Syria's defence aim was to have strategic balance with Israel. "You need a big stick in your hand to discuss anything with Israel," he said.

He also said Syria had new Soviet SAM-5 ground-air missiles which made Syria's skies free from Israeli aircraft penetration. He said a West German military attache in Damascus had been expelled for trying to photograph the SAM-5 sites. But he denied Western press reports that only Soviet technicians were allowed at the sites. All arms in Syria are under my orders, he told the paper.

Ash-Shar' Returns From Tunis Arab League Session

JN201926 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 20 May (SANA) — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after heading the Syrian delegation to the Arab League Council emergency session which was held on the foreign minister level. Dr Salim al-Huss, Lebanese minister of education and head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab League Council emergency session, arrived on the same plane on his way to Lebanon.

Durubi, Iranian Official Discuss Oil Cooperation

JN191900 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA) — Dr Ghazi Durubi, minister of oil and mineral wealth, today discussed with Mahmud Rafsanjani, Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus, the oil cooperation relations between the two countries and the measures that should be taken in light of the current circumstances in the Gulf resulting from the Iraqi-Iran war. During his meeting with Dr Durubi, Rafsanjani stressed that his country will implement all the articles of the third agreement that the two countries have signed — an agreement related to the export of Iranian light crude oil to Syria. Dr Durubi stressed that Syria is concerned about promoting the cooperation relations in the interest of the two friendly countries.

U.S. Gulf Moves Try To Compensate for Lebanon Losses

JN200825 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 20 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its commentary today under the headline "Washington, and Attempts To Compensate for its Losses in Lebanon" *AL-BA'TH* says: As compensation for losing most of its cards in Lebanon, and after withdrawing its forces from there the U.S. Administration undertook a quick and concentrated action. It sent presidential envoy Murphy to most of the countries in the region. His tour was considered — as described by Western news agencies — more dangerous than Henry Kissinger's moves after the October liberation war. The U.S. Administration followed this by sending U.S. Vice President George Bush to Pakistan and the Sultanate of Oman.

As a result of these moves, the Iraqi regime escalated its mad war with the objective of creating a loophole for U.S.-NATO armed intervention in the Arabian Gulf. This is what the United States has been seeking for years. According to reports, and after U.S.-European consultations, vanguards of U.S. forces are beginning to arrive in the Arab Gulf countries. France, who was implicated in Lebanon by the United States, has also begun to deploy its forces in the area from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean near the Gulf region.

This fast and concentrated U.S.-NATO military activity indicates that the region is facing new developments. The main objective behind all this is to achieve what Israel and the United States failed to achieve in Lebanon.

We in Syria see that the Iraqi regime's escalation of its mad war, giving it new international dimensions, cannot be separated from the attempts by Lebanon's enemies to return matters to their former state and to destroy all the results of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement.

We emphasize again that Syria will continue to support the brothers in Lebanon until the Zionist invaders are expelled. Consequently we will continue to emphasize Lebanon's unity, land and people, under one authority representing all the Lebanese.

Air Force Bombs 'Terrorist' Base in Al-Biqa'

TA201205 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1156 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Here is an IDF spokesman's announcement: At noon, Air Force planes attacked a terrorist base in the region of Janta, about 9 km east of Dayr al-Ghazal in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. All our planes returned safely to base. The IDF spokesman has reported that several buildings that served as a base for training and jumping-off points for attacks were bombed. As we said, all our planes returned safely to base, and our pilots reported precise hits on the target. Our correspondent adds that the base that was attacked was near a river bed where there were five buildings and several tents.This was a base for extremist groups of terrorists who were working under Iranian influence.

Six Planes Involved

JN201642 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 20 May 84

[Recorded report by military correspondent Shlomo (Gindi); from the "With the Events" program]

[Excerpt] Lebanese report that six Israeli planes participated in the raid. They say that three planes bombed, and that the other three served as protectors. The radios also say that the raid destroyed a Hezbollah camp in the Janta region as well as ammunition dumps in the area between Janta and An-Nabi Shit. The radios add that the sound of explosions was heard, that flames were seen from far away, and that ambulances rushed to the area to help evacuate the wounded to Ba'labakk hospitals.

Shamir To Address Knesset on Underground, Gulf, U.S.

TA210633 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 May 84 p 2

[Report by Robert Rosenberg]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is to take the podium today in the Knesset for what his advisers say will be a major wide-ranging speech.

Sources in the prime minister's office said Shamir will speak on such issues as the alleged Jewish underground, the Iran-Iraq war, U.S.- Israel relations — including the free-trade-zone negotiations — and Israel's relations with Europe. He is also expected to comment on the UN Security Council session today called by the Arab states to discuss the recent events at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon.

According to the sources, Shamir will be "tough" on the subject of the underground. He will reject criticism by the Jewish residents of the administered areas that the government failed to provide security for Jews in the areas, and criticism by his opponents, who charge his condemnation of the underground has been somewhat disingenuous.

On Iran-Iraq, Shamir is expected to declare Israel's neutrality, to deny any arms sales to Iran, and to remark that the two countries "compete in their hostility to Israel." Although he is not expected to describe U.S.- Israel relations as "the best ever," he will praise current relations with Washington. He may comment on congressional efforts to force the administration to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Shamir yesterday met for an hour with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Jean Gaul, in Israel for the Economic Conference.

Shamir told the visitor that "there are signs that all the parties in Lebanon are coming around to the view that an arrangement with Israel is necessary for a solution to Lebanon's problems."

Shamir told Gaul that "the PLO, without any independent bases bordering on Israel," is an "insignificant" element in the Middle East, and has not "accomplished anything positive" since it was founded.

Turning to relations with Egypt, Shamir said that the Camp David process "must continue," and that the recent visit by a delegation of Knesset members and journalists to Morocco showed that "there is increasing acceptance in the Arab world of Israel's existence."

Reportage on Clashes at 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp

UNRWA Spokesman Updates Toll

TA181758 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Three people were killed and 29 were wounded in clashes that have taken place recently in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon. This was announced today by an UNRWA spokesman.

Tension Continues

TA191829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The tension in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon is continuing. The camp inhabitants have blocked the alleys with barricades, cars, and burning tires. The civil militiamen have erected roadblocks at the entrances to the camp, and according to the inhabitants they have fired in all directions. A local civil militiamen was critically wounded near 'Ayn al-Hulwah this morning.

UNSC To Debate Issue

TA200442 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The UN Security Council is expected to raise the events in 'Ayn al-Hulwah tomorrow. Our military correspondent notes that, on the eve of the debate, information was given to Israeli representations in various places in the world, in which there is, among other things, a report on the events that took place in the camp. Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, says

that the Security Council debate will be an attempt to blacken the name of Israel. He notes that the IDF will continue to search for weapons in the camp.

IDF Patrolling Camp

TA200439 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The IDF is carrying out activities in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp in order to safeguard the residents' security and to calm down the atmosphere. This was confirmed by the IDF spokesman to our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. Among other things, IDF soldiers are making patrols, on foot and in vehicles, inside the camp, as opposed to settling for surrounding the camp and making observations.

The IDF spokesman explained that as long as the IDF controls Lebanon, events taking place in the camps are of concern to it. Our military correspondent notes that there are tanks surrounding the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. In the camp itself, searches are being made for weapons and ammunition, after it was learned that the residents are amassing considerable quantities of weapons. They say the reason for this is the fear of attacks by the Christians. Our correspondent reports that among the 'Ayn al-Hulwah residents, there are differences of opinion between rival factions, and from time to time shots are fired. It was also reported that in the camp there are many people who were released from the Ansar camp.

Further Incidents Reported

TA201034 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Sources in the Lebanese security force have reported that a civilian was wounded in Sidon by shots fired by an IDF guard. According to the sources, the civilian was wounded when IDF soldiers were searching the town's main street.

In the nearby refugee camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, there was calm today and eyewitnesses reported that the local civil guard has abandoned the roadblocks it manned yesterday.

Lebanese sources have reported that this morning in the western Al-Biqa' valley IDF soldiers encircled the Shi'ite village of Mashgharah and arrested 15 inhabitants.

Sidon Resident Killed 20 May

TA201120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] A resident of Sidon was killed, two others were wounded, and an IDF soldier was slightly wounded in an incident today. The soldier was able to continue with his mission. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that this occurred after a hand grenade was thrown at an IDF guard. The guard then returned the fire. It appears that the man who was killed was the one who threw the hand grenade.

IDF To Examine Aid

TA210624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The IDF will examine ways to help the families whose homes were damaged as a result of the explosions in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon. This was reported to our correspondent Gabi Zohar by the IDF's liaison unit in Sidon. The houses were blown up last week after it became evident that it would be impossible to remove explosives found there.

The IDF will also initiate contacts with the leaders of the camp in a few days, as well as with other figures, to calm down tempers. Inhabitants of the camp have complained that the economic situation in the camp is extremely difficult, mainly because they are unable to work in Sidon or alternatively travel to Beirut to work there. 'Ayn al-Hulwah has a population of some 30,000 people.

IDF Controls Camp Access

TA210851 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 May 84 p 2

[Text] Relative calm prevailed yesterday in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon following the arrest of 28 residents suspected of belonging to terrorist organizations and attacking IDF soldiers.

Some of the prisoners are former Ansar detainees who returned to their homes following the prisoner exchange about 6 months ago.

Yesterday Israeli correspondents and photographers were allowed to enter the camp for the first time since the riots in which two local women were killed.

The correspondents were not allowed to get out of their cars and their impressions were therefore hurried and superficial. It could still be clearly felt, however, that despite the superficial calm there is much tension among the 30,000 residents of the camp.

The residents mainly differ over the issue of whether they should cooperate with the terrorist organizations in Sidon against Israelor whether they should remain neutral, something that would prevent detentions and searches which are often done by Israeli security forces in the camp.

As a result of the latest events and the great tension, the IDF is preventing the entrance of southern army of Lebanon soldiers and Phalangist forces into the camp, and the IDF itself is making only a few motorized patrols in the camp.

Top officers yesterday emphasized that there was no connection between the arrests made in the last few days among the residents of the camp and the incidents in which the two women were killed. A top officer emphasized that the residents are allowed to keep personal weapons but that if they use them against IDF or southern army of Lebanon forces, they will be arrested and their weapons confiscated.

18 May IDF Communique

TA210700 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 18 May 84

["IDF Spokesman Communique" — GPO headline]

[Text] During the night of 15 May, IDF troops arrested persons suspected of hostile activity at 'Ayn Al-Hulwah.

About 30suspects were detained in the course of the arrests. While the arrests were being carried out, during a break into a house where weaponry was found, a local woman was wounded and was removed to a local hospital.

Another suspect, who attempted to escape from the house where the weaponry was found, was shot and wounded. In the yard of a house in the heart of the camp, explosives and weapons were found, and these explosives, which could not be removed for safety reasons, were detonated at the site.

On 16 May, the morning after the arrests, there were gatherings and disturbances by local residents inside the camp. On the evening of 16 May, during a settling of accounts among local residents inside the camp, a house was hit by a bomb.

Following the explosion, the Red Cross entered the camp, but found that no one had been hurt and that there was no need for their intervention.

The following day, 17 May, the man whose house was bombed the night before decided to remove his family from the camp. A crowd gathered around him as he moved his family. He opened fire and killed a local woman resident.

During the funeral, which took palce at 13.00 hours, there was firing from within the crowd, and another local woman was killed, and a local man was wounded. The funeral of the second local woman took place at 16.00 hours.

Throughout the day, in reaction to these events, crowds gathered and there were non-violent disturbances in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. In view of these events, the IDF's lookout post at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp went on increased alert so as to prevent irregular actions and enable IDF intervention where necessary.

In the course of the arrests, the following weaponry was found:

25 kg of explosives
40 hand grenades
electric detonators
anti-vehicle mines
RPG shells
anti-tank grenade launchers
flame-throwers
Kalashnikov rifles
submachine guns
rifles
ammunition

At present, all is quiet at the camp.

United States Informed

TA181136 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Israel has passed on to the United States all the relevant information concerning incidents this week at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp beside Sidon. An Israeli official told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that it was clear that Israeli soldiers had neither killed any camp residents nor indiscriminately blown up houses.

One Killed Attempting Ansar Escape 18 May

TA181310 Jerusalem Domestic Service In Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] During the night, there was an escape attempt in the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon: Five detainees were captured but five others escaped successfully. One of those captured was wounded when IDF forces opened fire at the escapees; he later died of his wounds. The IDF spokesman has reported that IDF forces are still searching the area.

Syria's Al-Asad on Security Guarantees for Israel

TA200521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is willing to recognize Israel's need for security guarantees on its northern border in order to ensure the withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon. In an interview with the British newspaper *THE OBSERVER*, Al-Asad agreed that Lebanon would give such guarantees to Israel, on the condition that the Lebanese Army would be responsible for them and that there would be no IDF presence on Lebanese soil. Al-Asad told the *OBSERVER* correspondent that Syria's policy is based on a balance of power between Israel and the Arabs, and that Syria seeks a peace conference sponsored by the United Nations, which would be attended by an all-Arab delegation.

Lebanese Official on Israeli-Syrian Contacts

TA181025 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 May 84 p 2

[Report by U.S. correspondent 'Oded Granot]

[Text] Former Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim this week claimed in a closed meeting with members of the U.S. Congress that he has knowledge of partial contacts which are being held between Syria and Israel on Lebanese territory. Salim, who is currently an adviser to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, addressed a meeting of members of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee during a visit he held in Washington. This visit also included meetings with Secretary of State George Shultz and top administration officials. When he was asked to react to newspaper reports about contacts between Syria and Israel on various issues, Salim confirmed these reports and claimed that he knew the identity of the Syrian representative in these contacts. Salim also added that the contacts do not deal

only with prisoner exchanges, but also with negotiations on the mutual and parallel withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Syria Rejects IRC Request To Visit Israeli Prisoners

TA200700 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 84 p 2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] International Red Cross (IRC) representatives in Damascus met with Syrian Administration staff last week and put forward a request to visit the three members of the Israeli representation in Beirut who are being held prisoner. The request was turned down and yesterday concern was expressed in Jerusalem over the Syrian refusal. The Foreign Ministry has already appealed to the IRC several times and the organization has expressed its willingness to visit the prisoners. The Syrians have already turned down the IRC requests twice, claiming that the prisoners were still being interrogated.

Labor, MAPAM Agree on Alignment Knesset List

TA210757 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0746 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] An agreement [haskama] was reached between the Labor Party leaders and MAPAM on the Alignment Knesset list. At the end of a joint session that ended a few minutes ago, MAPAM Secretary General Victor Shemtov told our correspondent Ilana Dayan that a crisis in the Alignment has been averted. The leaders of the two parties will confer again before the Knesset lists are submitted at the end of the month to finalize the agreement [heskem]. Our correspondent has learned that an agreement in principle was reached to place Victor Shemtov in the seventh slot on the Alignment Knesset list, instead of the fifth slot which he currently holds, but that apart from this no changes will be made in the list.

Likud Crisis Reported Over, Parties To Unite

TA181135 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The crisis in the Likud is over. The negotiating teams reached an agreement at noon, which includes both the number of seats the Liberals will have in the Knesset list and a full unification of both parties into one party to be called the Likud movement [Tenu'at Halikud].

Minister David Levi has said that the unification of the parties will take place even before the elections. It was also agreed that the prime minister would appoint the ministers without reference to their membership in the factions. The negotiating teams will meet again on Sunday, 20 May, to formulate basic guidelines. After that the two parties' centers will meet to approve the agreement.

Moda'i on Jewish Underground, Talks With Herut

TA181809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Liberal Party Chairman and Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i has refused to comment on reports that an agreement has been reached in the Likud. In a lecture at the Commercial-Industrial Club in Tel Aviv, he said he would report on the conclusion or lack of conclusion of the negotiations at the Liberal Center meeting this Sunday. At noon Minister David Levi was quoted as saying that an agreement had been reached regarding the Knesset list, on which 15 of the Liberals would be given safe slots, and on a complete merger between the two parties. In contrast, Minister Moda'i said that the deliberations are continuing; they deal not only with Knesset seats but also, and mainly, with platform issues, and the issue of guaranteeing the Likud will form the next government and correct errors it has made.

On the Jewish underground discovered in Judaea and Samaria, Modai'i said this is a grave matter not only because of the scale, but also because of the possible results of the Jewish underground's acts. He also claimed that the matter was blown out of all proportion in the press. At the same time, he noted that someone who has the title of rabbi should be severely penalized because he is an educator and must set a personal example.

Cabinet Session Ends; Herut, Liberals Meet

TA201020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] At the Cabinet session this morning, the chief of the IDF Intelligence Branch reviewed the situation in the area. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the Cabinet opened with a discussion on the demobilized soldiers bill which will be concluded at the next session. Minister Burg proposed making the law also applicable to female soldiers doing national service. David Levi proposed finding a way to help underprivileged soldiers.Deputy Minister Shilansky, who is initiating the bill, called for it to be ratified rapidly because the summer months, as he put it, are the months of emigration from Israel.

This morning's Cabinet session was shorter than usual and, after it was over, the Herut and Liberal negotiating teams met. Herut is being represented by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and MK Yoram Aridor. The Liberals are being represented by Ministers Moda'i and Nisim. This afternoon the Liberal Party Center is scheduled to meet to decide on the merger with the Herut movement and the new arrangement for the incorporation of the Liberals' representative on the Likud Knesset list.

Talks Between Shamir, Liberals End Without Result

TA211042 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Shamir and the Liberal Party leaders has just ended. Our reporter David Essing says no progress was made toward solving the crisis between the Liberal Party and Herut. Prime Minister Shamir asked Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i for an explanation of why the Liberals

have changed their minds after accepting the proposals of Herut. Later, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, who was also at the meeting, said Moda'i has not given a convincing explanation. Levi accused the Liberal Party of trying to serve Herut with an ultimatum, but Moda'i said it was Herut which served the first ultimatum when it demanded that the Liberals agree to reduced representation on the list of candidates, and to a merger of the two parties. Herut circles say they are standing firm in their demands, and they are prepared to run in the elections without the Liberals. It is not clear whether Prime Minister Shamir will accept the invitation to appear before the Liberal Party Central Committee.

Shamir Team Leads Peres Team in Poll

TA181156 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
18 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Although at this stage the election prediction gives the Alignment a considerable lead over the Likud, the Likud leadership team, headed by Yitzhaq Shamir, enjoys a slight edge over the Alignment's leadership team headed by Shim'on Peres, in the views of the general public. This emerges from the latest public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Research Institute directed by Dr Mina Tzemah, held between 29 April and 3 May.

The question that was put to 1,244 people from the sample on this issue of the leadership teams was:

"Which of the following two leadership teams can, in your opinion, deal better with the country's problems during the next 4 years: a team led by Yitzhaq Shamir with David Levi, Moshe Arens, Ari'el Sharon, and Yig'al Kohen-Orgad; or a team led by Shim'on Peres with Yitzhaq Rabin, Yitzhaq Navon, Hayim Bar-Lev, and Gad Ya'aqobi?"

The answers representing the views of the adult Jewish population in general were divided in the following way: the team led by Shamir: 49 percent; the team led by Peres: 45 percent. The remainder did not answer.

An analysis of the answers in accordance with sociodemographic characteristics indicates that the differences of opinion on this question were appreciably different from group to group. The groups in which the preference for the Likud team was the highest were those of the 18-22 age groups (60 percent for the Likud as against 38 percent for the Alignment); people with partial high school education (61 percent as against 34 percent); and people born in Israel, but with parents of oriental origin (63 percent as against 32 percent). The Alignment's leadership team was most preferred by groups aged 60 and over (54 percent Alignment as against 35 percent Likud), and people born in the European and American countries (65 percent as against 29 percent).

It is interesting to note that even among those who replied that they would vote for the Likud or the Alignment, there was a certain percent who opted for the rival party's leadership team. Among those who would vote for the Alignment, 8 percent evaluated the Likud team as better, while among those voting for the Likud, 4 percent preferred the Alignment's leadership team.

Among the important group of the "floating votes," opinions were almost equally divided: 43 percent for the Likud's leadership team compared with 41 percent for the Alignment leadership team.

The election prediction carried out on the basis of the data from this poll showed, as will be recalled, that the Alignment's electoral potential was 55 seats compared with the Likud's 40 seats at that time. The advantage provided for the Likud's leadership team was, then, mainly from people voting for the other lists and the floating votes.

Majority Favors Alignment-Likud Coalition

TA200914 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
20 May 84 p 3

[Text] A decisive majority of the Israeli public favors an Alignment-Likud coalition "if the election results are such that neither the Alignment nor the Likud is strong enough to form a government on its own." This is the result of a poll taken throughout Israel by the PORI institute for *HA'ARETZ*.

Among the public, 72.7 percent favor such a coalition, while 17.5 percent are opposed to it. Another 2.8 percent are willing to support an Alignment-Likud coalition, but this depends on "who heads it." The remaining 6.7 percent do not have a clear opinion on this issue.

The poll's director, PORI director Refa'el Gil, notes that the majority of the public believes that there is a "significant" difference between the Likud and the Alignment. Seventy-nine percent of the public think that there is a significant difference between the Likud and the Alignment, while 15.9 percent think that there is in fact no difference between the two big parties.

More Likud voters than Alignment voters see no difference between the two main parties: 14.2 percent of Likud voters are of that opinion as compared to 10.8 percent of Alignment voters.

The poll included a nationwide representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were individually interviewed.

Peres on Settlements, Negotiations With Jordan

TA181017 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
18 May 84 p 20

[Interview with Shim'on Peres by Refa'el Mann "the morning after the approval of the Labor Knesset List" — place not given]

[Excerpt] [Mann] Are any changes expected to take place in the Alignment platform? Will we find any ideas that we have not heard from you in the past, for example, concerning Judaea and Samaria?

[Peres] The platform will be updated, since time has changed things. On the issue of the settlements: We will stop the settlements in Arab areas which are densely populated. We will not remove existing settlements, and we will reinforce the settlements in areas which are important from a security point of view.

As for the negotiations with Jordan, we will tell the Jordanians that they do not have to agree beforehand to the Camp David accords, that we are willing to open negotiations on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Mann] What about the Golan Heights?

[Peres] I do not see any new considerations except for, maybe, saying that the final borders will be determined in negotiations. More than this would be mere rhetoric.

U.S. Assured Iraqi Pipeline Safe From Attack

TA201516 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Israel has promised the United States not to attack the oil pipeline Iraq plans to lay from Kirkuk to the port of Aqaba in Jordan. This was announced today by the Energy Ministry spokesman, Avishay Amir, in a meeting with foreign correspondents. The promise came after Iraq asked the United States for financial aid to lay the pipeline, and for guarantees that Israel would not attack it. The spokesman also disclosed that Israel proposed to Iraq, through the United States, to link the new pipeline to the Elat-Ashqelon oil pipeline, but Iraq has not yet given its reply.

U.S. Wants Change in West Bank Status

TA181149 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 May 84 p 2

["Exclusive" report from Washington by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] The professional echelons of the State Department's Office for Middle East Affairs [name as published] is reviewing suggestions for advancing the peace between Israel and the Arab countries, which are based upon two tendencies: Changing the status of the West Bank — that is, ending the Israeli Military Government — and coming to terms with the existence of Jewish settlements in that area.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned that the teams who are preparing the U.S. Middle East policy, are reviewing various plans with the aim of reviving the peace process in the area.

The ideas which are being looked into now will not be translated into practical policies before the upcoming elections in Israel.

The new elements which appear to be included in them are the recognition of the facts created in the West Bank, and the acceptance of the Israeli claim that the right of the Jews to live in that area is not conditioned upon the question of who will be the sovereign power there. The tendency of the planners is to change the status of the West Bank by ending Israeli rule there.

According to the prevalent atmosphere in the State Department, ending the Israeli military government and changing the ruling body in the area would in any event cause many Israeli settlers to reconsider their willingness to continue to reside in these areas.

Official Denies Sending Weapons to Nicaraguan Rebels

TA190723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] *THE WASHINGTON POST* writes that Israel has sent millions of dollars worth of military aid to the rebels fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. According to the paper, the CIA asked Israel and Saudi Arabia to support the Nicaraguan rebels. The Saudis rejected the request, but Israel complied and sent a great deal of military aid through a mediating South American country.

THE WASHINGTON POST goes on to report that the CIA asked Israel and Saudi Arabia for help in the wake of the restrictions imposed on its activities in Nicaragua by Congress. The CIA spokesman refused to comment on this report, while an Israeli official, who refused to be identified, denied that Israel had sent weapons to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Terrorist Activity on Egyptian Border Increases

TA191908 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] An increase in terrorist activity has been reported lately on the Israeli-Egyptian border. The number of cases of hand grenades being thrown, bombs planted, and disturbances occuring has grown in the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, it can generally be said that the Egyptian-Israeli border is quiet. Egypt is directing most of its efforts to building up an army in the rear, on the western side of the Suez Canal. This army will reach the peak of its power at the end of the 1980's.

ALGERIA

Ibrahimi Comments on Algeria-Tunisia Commission

LD181858 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Results and prospects: These were the two aspects of Algerian-Tunisian cooperation that were examined in Tunis during the fifth session of the joint cooperation commission. Foreign Affairs Minister Taleb Ibrahimi said it represents a new phase after the signing of the brotherhood and concord treaty. We naturally expressed our satisfaction with the number of projects achieved in all fields, he said. However, we also expressed our concern at the obstacles on which the cooperation process has stumbled. In the future we would like to conciliate political will with executing the projects decided upon, the minister made clear. Among the most important measures decided during this session were the creation of a committee at the Foreign Ministry level to be entrusted with following up cooperation. Tunisian and Algerian officials have agreed to hold future meetings between the two countries' planning ministries. Finally, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who chaired the work of this session alongside his Tunisian counterpart, left Tunis for Algiers this morning.

Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca Arrives

LD191546 Algiers APS in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 19 May (APS) — Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban minister of foreign relations, arrived at noon today in Algiers on a 4-day official visit at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, who was at the forefront of those awaiting his arrival at the Houari Boumedienne Airport.

The chief of Cuban diplomacy, during his stay in Algeria, will have talks with his Algerian opposite number, and he will also visit a number of economic and historic establishments.

In a statement he made to the national press, Malmierca described Algerian-Cuban relations as positive and going back more than 20 years. He also expressed confidence in finding the means to widen and consolidate the bilateral relations.

The Cuban minister of foreign relations talked about the situation in Latin America. He said that it is extremely critical and pointed out the American Administration's escalation of its aggressive actions are aimed at obstructing the march of the peoples of the region toward their independence.

Meets With Ibrahimi

LD192033 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] The Algerian-Cuban political talks started this afternoon at the level of the two delegations under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and foreign minister; and Mr Isidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign relations in the Cuban republic. The two delegations discussed during the first session of these talks the bilateral relations and reviewed current international problems and issues of mutual interest.

Tunisian Military Delegation Arrives 19 May

LD200133 Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 19 May 84 LD

[Text]— Algiers: 19 May (APS) — A delegation of the Chief of Staff Academy of the Tunisian Army arrived on Friday afternoon in Algiers for a several-day visit to Algeria. The military delegation was met on arrival at Houari Boumediene Airport by Lt Col Rahal Yahia, military instruction director in the National Defense Ministry. During its visit the delegation will visit several military academies as well as various social-economic centers.

LIBYA

Peoples Committees Renew Threat to Opponents

BK190320 Hong Kong AFP in English 0240 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Paris, May 19 (AFP) — Libya's People's Committees have renewed their vow to wipe out Libyan opponents of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime who live abroad. In a Tripoli radio broadcast monitored here, the powerful committees expressed their determination to "form suicide squads that will liquidate terrorists, enemies of the people's power, wherever they are found." The statement was part of a furious renewal of violence against "terrorist infiltrators, members of the Moslem brothers," since May 8, when a violent round of shooting took place near Col al-Qadhdhafi's residence.

The committee broadcast denounced "terrorist operations that the Moslem brothers, agents of America who recently infiltrated the country, have tried to perpetrate in Libya."

These "errant dogs in the pay of the great Satan, the worst enemy of Islam and Arabs, who have betrayed the people and conspire against them, will be chased and punished mercilessly, even if they have taken refuge in the most powerful fortress," the broadcast said.

Lebanese Charge d'Affaires Nizar Farhat Returns

LD201459 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, 20 May (JANA) — Lebanese brother Nizar Farhat [the Lebanese charge d'affaires who was recalled by the Lebanese Government on 4 Nov 83] has returned to the Jamahiriyah to resume his work following the abrogation of the 17 May agreemment and the resumption of relations between the Arab Libyan and Lebanese peoples.

Foreign Bureau Statement on Iraq-Iran War

LD190843 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, 19 May (JANA) — A source at the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has made the following statement:

The repercussions resulting from the Gulf war should never be isolated from the causes that led to its start. Under the shah, Iran was one of the tools of American imperialism and a sword was brandished over the necks of the Arab Gulf countries, including Iraq, which it used to exercise haughtiness, practice a policy of force and play the role of policeman in the region and a guardian of the interests of imperialism and Zionism. At that time, nobody in the region rose to check these policies that were detrimental to the interests of the Arab nation, the security of the Gulf and the freedom of Iraq. Indeed, it was noticed that the shah was considered a friend of the Saddam regime, which hastened to sign agreements with him, forgetting the shah's occupation of the Arab islands of the Gulf and forgetting also the filthy role the shah played in the Arab-Zionist conflict, particularly during the 1967 war.

But the Islamic revolution in Iran transferred Iran's capabilities and potentials to the side of the Arab nation in its conflict with imperialism and Zionism, hastened the call for the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine, and liquidated the American presence inside Iran.

The Saddam regime has waged war against this revolution in order to serve the interests of Zionism and imperialism who wish to settle their accounts with the Iranian revolution. The only logical explanation for this war is the serving of American interests in settling accounts with the Iranian revolution. Hence any consequences that might result from this war fall on the shoulders of the Saddam Husayn regime, the person responsible for starting it.

PRC Delegation Arrives in Tripoli 17 May

LD181104 Tripoli JANA in English 0938 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 18, May 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The vice chairman of the State Council in the People's Republic of China Li Peng, accompanied by the Chinese deputy foreign and economy ministers and a Chinese delegation arrived here yesterday afternoon on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Chinese official made a statement to JANA correspondent in which he said: Allow me to convey in the name of the Chinese Government and people the warmest greetings and best wishes for the Libyan people on the occasion of the Chinese Government delegation's friendship and official visit to the Jamahiriyah. I am very happy that we are messengers of friendship from the Chinese Government and people by undertaking this visit to your country.

He then went on to say that both Libya and China are developing countries which are part of the Third World. Last year, the leader of the revolution made a successful visit to China which contributed to consolidating cooperation relations between the two countries. During this visit, we will exchange points of view regarding international relations of joint interest and bilateral relations in order to deepen the reciprocal understanding and continue to bolster cooperation in a beneficial way for our two countries, he added.

Economic, Political Committees Meet

LD181806 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The meeting of both the economic and political committees, resulting from last night's Libyan Arab-Chinese meetings, began in Tripoli this morning.

In the economic committee, the discussions centered on deliberating the prospect of economic, trade, and industrial cooperation between the two countries; while in the political committee the talks between the two delegations centered on studying various issues of common interest. Both the economic and political committees are seeking to lay down a program for joint cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and People's China which will give new impetus to the level of relations and their development between the two countries.

Discussions With Secretary Rajab

LD192022 Tripoli JANA in English 1852 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 19, May 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, the secretary of the GeneralPeople's Committee, this morning met Li Peng, the deputy chairman of the State Council in the People's Republic of China who is heading his country's delegation in the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Sino joint committee for economic and social cooperation. Discussions centred on bilateral relations and means of developing cooperation relations and implementing joint projects and agreements between Jamahiriyah and China.

Delegation Leaves

LD200843 Tripoli JANA in English 0806 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 20, May 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Li Peng, the deputy chairman of the State Council in the Chinese People's Republic and the delegation accompanying him yesterdayevening left Tripoli ending a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah during which they held a series of talks concentrating on means of developing bilateral cooperation relations between Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of China.

MOROCCO

Weinberger Leaves After Military Committee Meetings

LD181655 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger left Morocco today after attending meetings of the joint American-Moroccan

Military Committee, which ended its meetings today with a public session held at the Foreign Ministry. He was seen off by the minister attached to the prime minister's office for economic affairs; the inspector general of the Royal Moroccan Forces, General Driss Benaissa; Abdelkhalek Benjelloun, the governor of Sale; U.S. Ambassador to Morocco Joseph Verner Reed; senior Royal Armed Forces officers, and a large number of people.

Report on Final Session

LD181652 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary for Defense, Caspar Weinberger has affirmed the United States' support for Morocco over the settlement of the Sahara issue in accordance with the African summit conference. He also affirmed Morocco's strategic importance for the defense of freedom and peace in one of the most important strategic regions of the world.

He was speaking during the final meeting of the third session of the joint American-Moroccan military committee, which concluded its work in Rabat this morning. The Moroccan side was headed by Taieb Bencheikh, minister attached to the prime minister's office for economic affairs. The meeting was also attended on the Moroccan side by Moroccan Ambassador to Canada Maati Jorio; secretary general of the national defense administration Colonel Major Mohamed (Achibar); and senior Moroccan officers who are members of the committee. On the American side the meeting was attended by U.S. Assistant Secretary for International Security Richard Armitage; U.S. Ambassador in Rabat Joseph Verner Reed; and military members of the committee.

Taieb Bencheikh opened the meeting by highlighting the importance the Governments of Morocco and the United States attach to the work of the joint military committee. He cited the presence of the U.S. defense secretary at the committee's meeting despite his many preoccupations with current international problems. He also highlighted the importance Morocco attaches to cooperation with the United States as evident from the king's receiving the U.S. defense secretary and the talks held during that audience.

Referring to the work of the committee, Taieb Bencheikh said that during the 3 days of discussions the experts from both sides have succeeded in defining the scope of military cooperation between the two sides. The talks have also made it possible to realize the identity of both sides' views with regard to the geopolitical affairs of the region in which Morocco is situated and to the defense capabilities needed for safeguarding peace and security.

Bencheikh then analyzed the political course pursued by Morocco with regard to the political and economic options open to it — a matter which prompts it to hurry to the aid of its friends whenever they ask for help. He added that the clear policy of his majesty the king makes Morocco, even at hard times, favor dialogue and negotiations and avoiding any action with unredressable consequences. He pointed out that this stems from Morocco's traditions and beliefs and the Moroccan people's adherence to the glorious Alawite throne. He affirmed Morocco wishes to continue this line. But, he added, this can only be possible through the strengthening of its Royal Armed Forces.

For his part the American defense secretary began his speech by underlining the importance of the committee's work and affirming the importance President Reagan attaches to it, and his admiration of Morocco and King Hassan II. He spoke of the audience granted to him by King Hassan II yesterday when he conveyed the monarch the U.S. President's greetings. He also spoke about American-Moroccan friendship and its geographical and historical importance. He said that the committee meeting acquires special importance to the security of both Morocco and the United States as well as to international security and that the enemies of peace and freedom are well aware of this.

He reiterated the United States' support for Morocco on the Sahara issue. He praised King Hassan II's stand in Nairobi and affirmed that the resolutions adopted by the African summit conference held in Nairobi are the basis on which a peaceful solution can be found for the problem.

Weinberger also referred to the question of the Middle East and the difficulty of restoring stability to the region. He praised the king and his efforts as an excellent commander in the Arab world and as chairman of the Islamic Conference, who exerts his utmost efforts to reach a just solution to the problem.

He also spoke of the speed of movement and the spreading of news [as-sur'ah fi at-tanaqqul wa intishar al-akhbar] and said that errors show no mercy in the present age, so we must work to ensure that nobody can take us by surprise. In this regard he praised Moroccao's vigilance and courage, recalling the heroic feats they achieved during World War II in Italy alongside the American forces in defending freedom.

The U.S. ambassador also spoke, affirming that the meeting of this committee, which was set up at the initiative of His Majesty King Hassan II and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, injects new breath into the relations between the two countries by virtue of its discussion of the various forms of cooperation including defense. He affirmed the United States' respect for Morocco's independence, sovereignty and nonalignment, and stated that the committee provides a favorable framework for cooperation between the two countries.

SUDAN

Integration Mission in Cairo Ordered Home

JN190957 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Khartoum 19 May (SUNA) — Some 25 executive and political leaders currently in Cairo on a mission pertaining to the integration between Sudan and Egypt were ordered to cancel their visit and return home.

President Numayri, in an address to the executive political and popular leaders here yesterday, directed that those leaders immediately return to the country. He said the declared state of emergency required that all leaders be present in the country to

implement the directives he recently issued to the state leadership at all levels. Numayri said he was not informed of the travel of the 25 leaders.

He said he received bad reports on mismanagement in Port Sudan, and that some leaders were hiding information. He called on the leaders to eradicate this scandal. Numayri expressed surprise that no emergency courts were so far set up in Port Sudan. The president said reports indicated the existence of some people who were trying to obstruct work, and that he would soon disclose their names. There are also some people who are involved in smuggling particularly smuggling alcohol, he added.

During the meeting, the leaders swore fealty to the president and expressed determination to combat corruption.

Decrees To Be Issued on Inspector General Reports
JN191856 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1802 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 19 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri held an expanded meeting at the People's Palace today and heard reports by Inspector General [al-muraji' al-'amm] Ahmad 'Uthamn ar-Rih on the performance of the various departments in Khartoum and the other regions.

In a statement to the press after the meeting, a presidential spokesman said republican decrees would be issued over the next few days on the inspector general's reports concerning the state accounts, fines, misappropriation of funds, salaries, and wages for this year. The spokesman said that another meeting will be held during the next 2 days.

The meeting was attended by 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president of the republic and director of the security apparatus; Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir 'Umar, first secretary of the SSU; attorney General ar-Rashid at-Tahir; Minister of Presidential Affairs Khalid al-Khayr; Interior Minister General 'Ali Yasin; Alms (zakat) Bureau Secretary Babakr 'Abdallah; Hashim Malkawi, chief of the administrative inspection apparatus; and members of the technical committee for Islamic laws.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Receives Libya's At-Turayki
LD211302 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid Essebsi received yesterday morning Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaision in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

During this meeting which proceeded in an atmosphere of complete frankness, the relations between the two countries in their various aspects were reviewed.

AFP Reports Libya To Release Tunisian Guards
NC211406 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Tunis, May 21 (AFP) — Libya has decided to free three Tunisian national guards taken prisoner at the two countries' joint border on May 8, usually well informed sources said here today.

Tunisian leaders learned of the decision as Libyan Foreign Minister 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki was leaving for home after two meetings with his Tunisian opposite number, Beji Caid Essebsi. Mr at-Turayki had been in Tunis for a meeting of the Arab League, which has its headquarters here.

There has been tension between the two countries since Libya accused Tunisia of allowing a commando that attacked the residence of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on May 8 to infiltrate its territory from Tunisia.

The authorities in Tunis denied the allegation and on May 16 the Tunisian ambassador to Tripoli was recalled.

According to informed sources, Mr at-Turayki had attempted to play down the crisis during his second meeting with Mr Caid Essebsi yesterday and urged Tunisian officials to continue the usual links between the two countries.

However, the Tunisian side had replied that the release of the national guards was necessary before relations could improve, the same sources said.

GHANA

Need for Border Vigilance With Upper Volta Stressed

AB200758 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Ghana and Upper Volta have again stressed the need for vigilance along their common border and for consolidating their revolutions. This is contained in a communique issued at the end of a meeting at Bawku, in the Upper East region, between a Ghana delegation led by the regional secretary, Mr Martin Amidu, and the Upper Volta counterpart led by the commissioner of the (Bilanga) Province, Mr Yara Alphonse.

The meeting considered progress so far made on decisions taken at a similar meeting at Tenbidougou in Upper Volta about a month ago on border issues, particularly the movement of people and goods, currency trafficking, sports, cultural and educational matters.

The communique described development in these areas as encouraging but said there is room for improvement. For example the alleged nafarious activities of some Ghanaian border officials, including the police in the Bawku district, were highlighted. The Upper Volta delegation complained that from January to May this year, a total of 546,000 CFA [African Financial Community Francs] has been seized from their nationals by Ghanaian border officials and the police without seizure notice and this, it alleged, did not go into government coffers. The two sides agreed that this vice does not augur well for the two revolutions and must be rooted out. Both sides therefore reaffirmed the need to strive for a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to illegal seizure and pocketting of money and the elimination of black marketeering along their common border.

To further enhance the two revolutions, the communique urged the security agencies not to hinder the movement of nationals of the two countries and those of the ECOWAS countries with valid travel documents to and from their countries. It also called on the People's Defense Committeees and committees for the defense of the revolution, CDRs, in Upper Volta, to organize seminars and rallies to educate people along the borders to foster understanding and help minimize border conflicts. The communique further urged cadres of both countries to be vigilant to forestall any attempt by both internal and external enemies to destabilize the two revolutions.

Canadian Firm Drilling Second Off-Shore Oil Well

AB181845 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Drilling of the second well for oil in Half-Assini in the western region began today. This follows the encouraging results achieved from the first well in the same area by the Canadian petroleum firm, Petro-Canada Assistance International Corporation, which is undertaking oil exploration off-shore Half-Assini.

The Canadian high commissioner to Ghana, Mr Frederick Livingston, disclosed this to newsmen after a courtesy call on the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, at the Castle, Osu today. Mr Livingston said: To complete the drilling of the second well, Canada has allocated an additional $9 million to Petro-Canada International. It is hoped that the second well would be completed by the end of July.

Canada originally allocated $23 million to Petro-Canada for the drilling of two exploratory oil wells. Mr Livingston said on completion of the drilling exercise, Petro-Canada will present a complete detailed technical report to the government for it to decide on how best to put to good use the economic (?sales).

He said whatever political future the country will follow will be conceived and built by Ghanaians themselves. This, Mr Livingston said, will reflect the needs and aspirations of the Ghanaian people. He said he was encouraged by the PNDC economic recovery program, adding that it is beginning to work. Ghana, he said had experienced a long period of decline in the economy and said its recovery will take a lot of effort from the people. He is confident that the rate of progress in the economic recovery will accelerate next year.

IVORY COAST

Foreign Minister To Visit Ghana 21-24 May

AB181105 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 18 May 84 p28

[Excerpt] The cabinet met yesterday morning at the presidential palace from 1000 to 1300, under the chairmanship of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

The cabinet authorized many visits abroad, specifically the following:

— A delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Simeon Ake will visit Accra from 21 to 24 May 1984 to participate in the sixth session of the Ghana-Ivory Coast Joint Commission for Cooperation. This meeting follows the friendly visit to Yamoussoukro on 16 December 1983 by Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, head of state and chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council.

— The president of the republic also gave his approval for the country's participation in the eighth session of the council for further training and to the 10th board meeting of the African and Mauritian Institute for Statistics and Applied Economics, which will take place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 29 May to 2 June 1984.

Cuban Foreign Minister Stops Over in Ivory Coast

AB201415 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca made a 24-hour stopover in Abidjan, while en route to Mali, and was

received by the government. During his visit, Mr Malmierca met with Simeon Ake, his Ivorian counterpart, with whom he held talks on Central America and Africa.

MALI

President Traore Receives Cuba's Malmierca

AB171943 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The president of the republic, General Moussa Traore, received the Cuban minister of foreign affairs, Isidoro Malmierca, at 1200 today. The development and the strengthening of friendly relations between the two Third World countries, Cuba and Mali — the one at the begining of the industrialization process and the other confronted with development problems and the cumulative effects of drought — and the need to raise cooperation to the level of this friendship, were the issues discussed during the meeting. Isidoro Malmierca confirmed this after the meeting to our reporter Seydina Oumar Dikko.

[Begin recording in Spanish followed by translation into French] [Malmierca] We had the honor of being received by the president of the republic, to whom we conveyed the brotherly and friendly greetings of President Fidel Castro. The personal friendship existing between President Moussa Traore and President Fidel Castro is very old and strong. In return, President Moussa Traore gave us a greeting for President Fidel Castro, in which he renewed his desire to continue strengthening the ties of cooperation between our two peoples and governments.

[Dikko] You just mentioned cooperation. Could you tell us the specific areas in which you intend to strengthen cooperation between our two peoples?

[Malmierca] We are working together in several sectors: public health, sports, and culture. We are currently examining the possibility of [words indistinct] economic sectors, such as trade. Very recently we ratified an air agreement. We also cooperate in the educational sector. There are about 120 Malian students in our country [words indistinct] in the forthcoming years. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

The talks between the Cuban foreign minister and the head of state were held in the presence of our minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Alioune Blondin Beye, Mrs Malmierca of the Cuban Diplomatic Council, and the Cuban ambassador to Mali, His Excellency Eduardo Barbin Martin.

During his visit, Isidoro Malmierca will exchange toasts with Alioune Blondin Beye, and will hold talks with certain members of the Central Executive Bureau and the government. Moreover, was received by the second vice president of the National Assembly. Tomorrow Isidoro Malmierca will hold a press conference at the Hotel de l'Amitie at 1700. Before then, there will be a working session between Malian and Cuban officials in the Ministerial Council Hall of Koulouba Palace.

Meets Traore, Blondin Beye

AB182230 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The Cuban minister of foreign relations is on the second day of his visit to our country. Today Isidoro Malmierca held a working session with Alioune Blondin Beye at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Yesterday Isidoro Malmierca was received by the president of the Republic, General Moussa Traore; the Central Executive Bureau secretary for foreign relations, Mohamed Ahmed Ag Hamanni; Ministers Sekou Ly, Ngolo Traore, Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hamanni; and Moussa Toure, second vice speaker of the National Assembly. The development and strengthening of friendly relations between Cuba and Mali was the issue discussed at those meetings. This afternoon at 1700 Mr Malmierca will hold a press conference at the Hotel de l'Amitie.

Malmierca Departure Statement

AB201355 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca ended his visit to Mali. He left Bamako this morning for Havana at the end of his 72-hour visit which enabled him to have several talks with the Malian side. Before his departure, Mr Malmierca gave a press conference at the Friendship Hotel and took stock of his visit.

[Begin Malmierca recording in Spanish with simultaneous translation into French] We see this visit as very fruitful. We had the opportunity to talk with President Moussa Traore and convey to him greetings from President Fidel Castro. He was was pleased to talk about President Fidel Castro, and thanked him for his greetings. He commended the Cuban doctors who are working in Mali and added that we have to try to find the ways and means to bring our cooperation up to the rank and level reached by the relationship between the two presidents, that is Presidents Fidel Castro and Moussa Traore. We know that our visit enabled us to go forward on this path,and that the similarity between the foreign policy of Cuba and Mali will make it possible to work together toward common objectives, within the system adopted by this country as well as within the Nonaligned Movement, of which Cuba and Mali are founding members. That is why we are very satisfied with and very happy about the outcome of this visit. [end recording]

On his departure, Mr Malmierca was seen off by Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and the Soviet and GDR ambassadors to Mali.

Diarra Receives Visiting Algerian Delegation

AB182115 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] The Algerian FLN delegation, which arrived in Mali yesterday evening, was received this morning by General Amadou Baba Diarra, Deputy secretary general of the party and minister of state for equipment. The delgation is led by Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the

Central Comiittee in charge of external relations. The main aim of the Algerian mission is to strengthen the excellent cooperation existing between our two parties, the FLN and the Democratic Union of Malian people [UDPM], said Mr Bouhara to our reporter Daouda Ndiaye.

[Begin Bouhara recording] I must mention first of all that relations between Algeria and Mali are excellent. Cooperation has reached an appreciable level of development. Close ties have been woven between our peoples. With regard to the party, this is not the first visit of an FLN delegation, neither is it the first meeting between our two parties.

We had the honor of being received this morning by our brother Amadou Baba Diarra, deputy secretary general of the party. At that meeting, I conveyed to him greetings from President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the party, and greetings from the our country's political leadership. I also expressed the wholehearted gratitude and warm feelings of the FLN party activists toward Mali and the UDPM.

The aim of the FLN delegation is simply to further strengthen cooperation between our countries. It is obvious that cooperation is concreted through a certain number of decisions made by joint commissions, and the joint commissions of both countries are expected to meet very soon in Algiers, after the month of fasting [Ramadan]. As ruling political parties with leadership roles in our countries, our mission is to see to the implementation of the various decisions made by various officials in Mali and Algeria and see to it that the decisions made in particular by our heads of state, are implented in the best conditions possible.

It is also our duty to create the political environment and conditions for the development of this cooperation. How is this political environment and these political conditions created? They are created through the negotiations that have to take place between party and mass organization structures and through the exchanges between various party delegations and organizations. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

NIGERIA

Gambari Visit to Libya, Niger Reported

AB182144 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, returned to Lagos this evening after a 3-day official visit to Libya and Niger. The minister delivered special messages from the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya, and Colonel [as heard] Seyni Kountche of Niger.

Dr Gambari told a Radio Nigeria correspondent on arrival at the Murtala Muhammad Airport, that they also discussed issues of bilateral relations, the problems of Chad, Western Sahara, and apartheid South Africa, as well as the next OAU summit. The minister said that he briefed the leaders of Libya and Niger on the Federal Government's activities aimed at bringing peace to Chad and Nigeria's relations with Cameroon.

Buhari Receives Polish Trade Minister

AB182200 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The head of state has said that Nigeria would soon overcome its economic problems. Receiving the Polish minister of foreign trade, Tadeusz Nestorowicz, General Buhari said the Federal Military Government was doing its best to tackle the problems within the shortest possible time.

The minister had earlier delivered a message from the Polish leader, General Jaruzelski.

Foreign Minister Leaves on 10-Day African Tour

AB201410 Lagos NAN in English 1400 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Ikeja, May 20 (NAN) — The minister of external affairs, Dr. Ibrahim Gambari, left Lagos today on a 10-day tour of East and southern Africa.

Dr. Gambari told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the Murtala Muhammed airport, Lagos, that the tour would take him to Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana, Angola, and Ethiopia.

He said that he was undertaking the trip to keep Nigeria abreast of some developments in southern Africa as a result of the non-aggression pacts signed by apartheid South Africa with some frontline states.

"A wind of change seems to be blowing across southern Africa and we want to make sure that it is not an ill-wind that will retard the liberation efforts," Dr. Gambari said.

He said he would also emphasize Nigeria's determination to continue its financial, material and diploatic support for the African National Congress and the SWAPO.

The minister said that Nigeria would continue to support the liberation movements in their "struggle to defend their territorial and national intergrity and for the liberation of southern Africa as a whole."

University in Makurdi To Reopen 21 May

AB181102 Lagos NAN in English 1040 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Makurdi, May 18 (NAN) — The Federal University of Technology, Makurdi, closed down on May 7 as a result of the students' boycott of lectures, is to reopen on Monday, May 21, a statement from the institution yesterday said.

Signed by the university's academic registrar, Lawrence Tusmbu, the statement said that all students would be required to sign an undertaking to abide by the rules and regulations of the institution before readmission. It added that lectures would resume on Tuesday.

Court Reserves Ruling on Former Governors' Petition

AB180915 Lagos NAN in English 0855 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 17 (NAN) — A Lagos High Court today reserved ruling till Tuesday in an application filed by ex-governors Bola Ige, Adekunle Ajasin, and Bisi Onabanjo of the banned UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria], seeking to stop their trial by the Lagos zone of the Special Military Tribunal. The application was filed on behalf of the ex-governors by a Lagos lawyer, Mr G.O.K. Ajayi.

The attorney-general of the federation, Chike Ofodile, urged the court to strike out the application because the tribunal "has jurisdiction to try the three ex-governors."

Mr Ofodile said that the validity of any decree made since December 31, 1983, should not be questionable in any court of law, adding that the Federal Military Government had an unfettered right to rule the country by decree. He said that to challenge Decree No 3, under which the Special Military Tribunal was set up, would amount to challenging the right of the government to promulgate the decree.

Mr Ofodile said that the challenge would also amount to questioning the right of the military government to appoint members of the special tribunal, as well as the right of the members to perform the duty assigned to them. He further said that the applicants had no right to question the competence of the tribunal as presently constituted, adding, "A decree is superior and can nullify any unsuspended part of the 1979 Constitution."

The counsel to the ex-governors, however, said that the special military tribunal "lacks competence to adjudication." Mr Ajayi said that the members of the tribunal "are disqualified by the general principle of natural justice because some top members of the tribunal are members of the Supreme Military Council which preferred the charges against the governors and which would also ratify the judgments." He said that his clients were not challenging the power of the Federal Mitary Government to promulgate the decree, but that "they are challenging the special tribunal for not obeying Decree No 3."

Mr Ajayi said that under the decree, the tribunal had no right to try his clients for an offense allegedly committed in July last year, adding that a tribunal "cannot hide under the protection of Decree No 3 and do anything it likes outside the provisions of the decree."

Minister Discusses Press Coverage of Trials

AB181150 Lagos NAN in English 1132 GMT 18 May 84

[By Rowland Nwachukwu]

[Text] London, May 18 (NAN) — Group Capt Samson Omeruah, the minister of information, social development, youth, sports, and culture, said in London yesterday that the press would be constantly briefed on the proceedings at the current trials of detained politicians and public officers in Nigeria.

Answering questions from British journalists during a stop-over on his way to Lagos from Paris, Group Capt Omeruah said that the trials were being held to prove to the public that the politicians were corrupt.

The Western Europe correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) quoted the minister as saying that the proceedings would be recorded, and that the chairman of the tribunals would give the press the opportunity to know what was going on.

Group Capt Omeruah dismissed a suggestion that the trials were being held in camera to prevent the public from being aware of the proceedings. He said that press coverage of the trials might not correctly reflect the proceedings.

Group Capt Omeruah said that the public officers (protection against false accusation) decree was aimed at checking people who were "guilty of speculative journalism."

During his three-day visit to Paris, the minister signed a cultural cooperation agreement between Nigeria and France. The agreement is expected to promote the exchange of university teachers and cooperation in the field of mass communication between both countries. Group Capt Omeruah also launched an exhibition of 2,000 years of Nigerian art, which will remain open until later this year.

The minister has since returned to Lagos.

SENEGAL

Diouf Returns, Discusses Visit to Tunisia

AB181055 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpts] The president of the republic and Mrs Abdou Diouf have returned from Tunis, where they were the guests of the president of the republic and Mrs Habib Bourguiba. The president said on arrival that he was satisfied with his visit to Tunisia.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, we followed the various stages of your trip through the media. Could you tell us your impressions of your visit to Tunisia?

[Diouf] I will begin by saying that this trip went very well, and I am not being diplomatic when I say that. President Habib Bourguiba, Prime Minister Mzali, and his government did everything in their power to make us really feel at home in Tunisia, and one must say that the welcome was very exceptional and worthy of the great and deep friendship existing between the Tunisian and Senegalese people.

First of all, it was a friendly visit. As you are aware, since I became president, I had not yet gone on an official visit to Tunisia. It was therefore an opportunity to fill this gap, which eventually would have become serious.

But it was more of a working visit, and I believe that we did some good work, because at the end of the visit, we made plans for the

greater development of all levels of cooperation between Tunisia and Senegal. We drew up a strategy for the development of trade links, and the procedures for resolutely engaging in cooperation in tourism, deep-sea fishing, and industry.

I will lay special emphasis on industrial cooperation and what we can expect from Tunisia at present. We have already signed, or rather the chairman and director general of the AICIB [expansion unknown] has signed an agreement for the creation of an animal feed factory by the Tunisians within the framework of a Senegalese and Tunisian joint company.

Of course, any cooperation should be placed in a framework , and so to encourage Tunisian investments in Senegal, we decided to negotiate and sign an investment guarantee agreement, and a taxation convention to avoid double taxation. These two accords were signed today by the two foreign ministers, and will be ratified and approved according to the usual constitutional procedures. We hope they can become effective as soon as possible in order to serve as a framework for the dynamic policy of cooperation in industry, tourism, fishing, and other sectors of the economy that we want to develop with Tunisia.

But we didn't only discuss bilateral cooperation; we also talked about other major issues, mainly in the political field, issues concerning our respective democratic experiences, issues on drought and desert encroachment, and Third World indebtedness. Concerning the drought and desert encroachment problem, you know Senegal will convene a meeting here in July, first at the level of experts, and then at the ministerial level. These meetings are aimed at studying ways and means of intensifying the fight against desert encroachment.

We also discussed pressing African issues, which are the Western Sahara, Chad, and the Horn of Africa, and on all these topics, our viewpoints were generally identical. We also acknowledged the fact that Senegal and Tunisia must collaborate closely with other African sister countries, act as quickly and efficiently as possible to eradicate these plagues which, as we put it, prevent our continental organization from playing its real role for the economic development of our continent, and for its economic integration in the true cause we are defending together, such as the fight against apartheid, and Namibian independence. We also talked about world issues such as the Middle East problem, the Iran-Iraq conflict, and so on.

Apart from my official activities, I also received various personalities such as Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, with whom I discussed Afro-Arab cooperation, a topic which I also discussed with President Bourguiba, and that I talked about in my address to Tunisian parliamentarians, and discussed with the Tunisian officials. I ~~also received President~~ Yasir ~~'Arafat, to~~ whom I expressed anew the Senegalese people's solidarity with the Palestinian people in the framework of their struggle for self-determination and create an independent and sovereign state in the Middle East on the land of Palestine.

On the whole, this visit was very fruitful for Senegalese- Tunisian relations, and as we said earlier, we moved to the second phase of these relations; we opened a new more plentiful and important file; we shifted to a higher speed as we usually say, to deal with what is concrete. [end recording]

TOGO

President Eyadema Receives OAU Official

AB201245 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] General Gnassinbe Eyadema, the founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] and president of the republic, yesterday received Mr Peter Onu, acting secretary general of the OAU, at the RPT House in Kara. This is his second trip to our country within about 40 days. It is evidence of the importance given to our country and its President, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, whose pragmatism, rigor, and perfect knowledge of the current problems he tackles and resolves with a lot of flexibility are admired by Togo's friends. The talks between Mr Peter Onu, the OAU secretary general, and President Eyadema, which lasted about 1 and ½ hours, were marked by frankness and cordiality. The audience was attended by Mr Yao Kunale Eklo, administrative secretary of the RPT, and Mr (Gaffar Dramani), the permanent under secretary of the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

ANGOLA

Petroleum Protocol Signed With Soviet Company

MB181015 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola and the USSR yesterday in Luanda signed a cooperation protocol in petroleum within the framework of the intergovernmental joint commission established by the two countries in 1976. Under the terms of the protocol, the USSR will build pipelines and reservoirs for Angola for oil byproducts and will take part in a project to utilize natural gas for fertilizers and manures for the Ministry of Agriculture. The protocol also provides for common technical and economic research, and the dispatch of Soviet technicians for the Angolan Ministry of Petroleum, and the national Angolan fuel company [SONANGOL]. It was signed by Sagado Costa, managing director of SONANGOL, and (Vitaliy Vechev), deputy chairman of (Neshkimprotexport), a Soviet fuel company.

163 Bandits Killed in Actions in Six Provinces

MB201030 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Some 163 UNITA bandits have been killed, 5 have been captured, and a large quantity of war materiel has been seized by the combatants of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], in successful operations carried out in Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Huambo, Bie, Moxico, and Malanje Provinces in recent weeks. In Moxico Province, 140 bandits have been killed in FAPLA operations since the beginning of this month. Also noteworthy are the operations in Bie Province, which have been characterized by intense hot pursuit actions against the bandits. Documents have been captured in some of these provinces proving the links between the UNITA puppets and the Pretoria regime. Commenting the day before yesterday on the FAPLA actions, ANGOP pointed out that the intensification of FAPLA operations refutes, actually, the misleading reports from the Western media characterized by anti-Angolan propaganda. ANGOP referred to the kidnapping of foreign citizens in Angola, which is treated in such an exaggerated way, mainly by the British press. Such reporting encourages banditry and undermines the ties of cooperation that Angola maintains with the respective countries concerned.

Ceremony Held For Transfer of UK Prisoners

Savimbi Makes Statement

MB181514 (Clandestine) Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 18 May 84

[Statement by Dr Jonas Savimbi, UNITA president, during the handing over ceremony of British citizens to Sir John Leahy at Jamba, Angola, on 12 May, first paragraph in English; second in Portuguese — recorded]

[Excerpts] We have reached a happy end, and I am now with great pleasure handing over to Sir John Leahy, these 2 gentlemen who are representing the 16 or 17 British citizens who were among us. I hope you will have a good journey back home. The press awaits your statements, but I shall be very brief by saying that our discussions went well. This is proven by the fact that we are now handing over the British citizens to Sir John Leahy. I must also say with satisfaction that we covered issues concerning our part of the continent.

UNITA Gives 'Welcoming Speech'

MB181644 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 18 May 84

[UNITA Central Committee "welcoming speech" for Sir John Leahy, read by an unidentified person at the ceremony on the release of British prisoners in Jamba, Angola, on 12 May, in English fading into Portuguese translation — recorded]

[Text] Honorable Sir John Leahy, distinguished members of the international press, comrades, and countrymen:

On behalf of UNITA, our President Dr Savimbi, and the Angolan people in arms, allow me to welcome Sir John Leahy, special envoy of the government of Her Majesty Elizabeth II to Jamba, the provisional capital of the free territory of Angola, despite the difficult circumstances under which this visit is taking place.

UNITA was founded by genuine Angolans who actively have taken part in the Angolan people's contemporary resistance against Portuguese colonialism since the 1950's. This anticolonial struggle was waged by UNITA, the MPLA, and the Angolan patriotic forces. Throughout its existence, and ever since its founding congress in Muangai on 13 March 1966, UNITA has defended the unity of the national liberation movements. After 25 April 1974, the day of the coup d'etat that toppled the Salazar regime in Portugal, it was UNITA which managed to achieve a common platform with the other liberation movements for the negotiation of Angolan independence which culminated with the signing of the Alvor agreements between the Angolan party and Portugal. [applause]

We in UNITA believe that the Alvor agreements have the same international standing as the Lancaster House accords, into which the British Government put so much effort and honor, regarding their implementation by all contracting parties. It was the sophisticated Russian weapons and Cuban military that destroyed the Alvor agreements. However, they failed to destroy the will of the Angolan people to resist foreign domination. Such resistance has been embodied in UNITA alone with so much sacrifice.

Honorable visitor: Great Britain is the cradle of democracy on the old continent, and for this reason, UNITA is unable to understand why Britain supports totalitarianism in Angola in the face of the resistance of the majority of its people who aspire to nothing but to democratically participate in its political life.

Great Britain, together with the United States, FRG, Canada, and France, forms part of the contact group that seeks a peaceful solution of the Namibian question. For practical purposes, Namibia's independence depends on peace in Angola, where the

Cubans have, since 1975, assumed the function of a Pretorian guard for the MPLA regime. UNITA today is an indispensable factor in the implementation of the peace plan for southern Africa. The inclusion of UNITA in the equation of this plan has become unavoidable under the circumstances. We wish you successes in the talks that will now take place with the leadership of our party, UNITA.

Here in this stadium, there are thousands of Angolans, men and women, old and young, who have come to greet you while at the same time express their determination to be free. It would not be inappropriate to recall here what Sir Winston Churchill wrote to U.S. President Roosevelt in May 1940: The future of Africa, in its relations with the western world, will be decided in southern Africa. In this area at the moment, there are signs of good will and political realism. It would therefore be strange if Great Britain, who more than anyone else knows this area, does not now play its role as a mediator in defense of Western interests, which are also its own.

We seek peace in Angola and reconciliation with the MPLA as we did in 1974, but until that time, we shall firmly keep our weapons. However, we shall have our hearts open to dialogue.

We welcome you, Sir John Leahy, once again to our fatherland. [applause]

Leahy Makes Statement

MB181250 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 18 May 84

[Statement by British Envoy Sir John Leahy at Monteiro Stadium at UNITA "provisional capital" in Jamba, Angola, on 12 May in English with sentence by sentence Portuguese translation, transcribed from English — recorded]

[Text] Dr Savimbi, president of UNITA: I would like to say, first of all, how happy I am to be taking home my fellow citizens with me tomorrow. [applause] But I suspect that my happiness is nothing compared with theirs. After such a long wait and all they have been through, it must be very good to be going home. I am also very relieved to find them in such good shape. I think this is a reflection on the good way in which they have been treated. [applause] And they told me today that on the way down from Kanfufo on that long march, your soldiers did everything they could to make them as comfortable as possible in the difficult circumstances. [applause]

I am also grateful, Dr Savimbi, because right at the beginning of our talks today, you told me the decision had already been made and was firm, and that we were not there to bargain over the release of these British people.

You were as good as your word, and although perhaps we obviously found that our perspective on some of the issues we discussed was not quite the same, you did not change your mind, and I am grateful for that. [applause] But I don't want to leave the impression that we disagreed about everything; far from it. It remains for me to thank you and your colleagues for the warmth of your welcome to me and your other British guests. [applause followed by Sir Leahy shouting Savimbi's exhortation word of Ye, Ye, Ye, followed by prolonged laughter] We have seen some remarkable spectacles today and some splendid entertainment this evening. I had always heard, Dr Savimbi, about your great qualities of leadership and your colorful style. We have seen plenty of evidence today, both of your leadership and of your style. [applause] I would merely end by saying that just before I left London, a journalist friend said to me: Isn't it rather humiliating to be going all the way to Jamba to beg for some of your fellow citizens? But not only did I not have to beg for anything today, but if the treatment I received today is humiliating, I can take a lot more of it. [applause followed by laughter]. Thank you.

UNITA Communique Issued on 19 Apr-5 May Operations

MB181718 (Clandestine) Voice of Resitance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 18 May 84

[Communique on "relevant operations" carried out between 19 April and 5 May, issued on 7 May on "the free territory of Angola" by Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola]

[Text] Lunda Province: On 27 April, an attack on the enemy's barracks was carried out in the village of Caiula, 30 km northeast of Saurimo. On 1 May the cultural cooperation school for officers at Cacanda, south of Dundo, was attacked. A total of 12 People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] members and 2 Cuban instructors were killed. On 3 May a second attack on Caungula took place.

Cuanza Sul Province: On 21 April, an attack was carried out on the village of Cassonge. On 30 April, Andala Cachibo, south of (Demonenga), was attacked.

Huila Province: On 29 April, the town of Matala was attacked and its fuel pumps destroyed. Matala was garrisoned by Cubans. On 1 May, the enemy barracks at Sangueve were attacked.

Huambo Province. On 3 May, an attack was carried out on a military column from the enemy's brigade 10 km from Vila Nova. As a result, 13 FAPLA members died, including the 18th Brigade's commander, Captain (Bebeca), and an incalculable number were wounded. A total of 10 automatic weapons were captured and 12 vehicles destroyed.

On 5 May, Cuban forces at Huambo fired on FAPLA forces for 3 hours, with a number of people killed or wounded as a result. The fire ceased after the provincial commissioner, Lieutenant Colonel Liberdade, intervened.

Moxico Province: On 30 April, the village of Lumege was attacked in the (Ringoma) area, resulting in the death of three Cuban military men, and nine FAPLA members, while the rest fled.

During this period, the enemy suffered the following losses: 179 FAPLA soldiers and 10 Cubans dead; 20 FAPLA soldiers captured; 16 vehicles destroyed; 2 BRDM captured; 1 bridge

destroyed; 8 vehicles captured; and 273 weapons of various types captured. UNITA suffered 13 dead, 45 wounded, and 6 missing.

The free territory of Angola on 7 May 1984, the year of the patriotic anti-Cuban front.

[Signed] Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, chief of the General Staff

MOZAMBIQUE

Bandits Killed, Bases Destroyed in Four Areas

MB200700 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0605 GMT 20 May 84

[From the Armed Forces program]

[Text] FPLM forces are continuing their tireless actions, killing armed bandits and destroying their bases. Thus, the FPLM killed three armed bandits, captured another, and destroyed one of their bases during recent operations by our Armed Forces in Inhambane Province. A number of articles that had been stolen from the people, including cattle, were also recovered.

On 12 May in Niassa Province, our forces captured a quantity of ammunition, bazooka rockets, and hand grenades in an operation that ended with the destruction of one of the bandit bases. In Tete and Gaza, two bandits have turned themselves in to our forces, and a number of others have been killed by the FPLM.

'Armed Bandits' Presented at Public Ceremony

MB200537 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] A total of eight armed bandits captured by the FPLM were presented yesterday at a public ceremony held in the Boane District of Maputo Province. Four of the them had received parachute and reconnaissance training in South Africa. The ceremony was attended by about 2,000 people, who demanded death for the armed bandits.

FPLM Frees People Held by 'Armed Bandits'

MB191156 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Over 100 people who were kidnapped early this year by the armed bandits at (Macinistacao) in Chimoio District were freed recently by FPLM forces stationed in that area of Manica Province.

Our reporters in Manica have informed us that the people are now at the local administrative headquarters, where they are receiving assistance in form of food, clothes, and medicine from the local party and government structures. They are also receiving material assistance to enable them to open up farms. Early this year at (Macinistacao), an attempt by the armed bandits to attack the local headquarters was repulsed, and during the clashes three bandits were killed.

NAMIBIA

Informants Paid for Reporting Arms Caches

MB181604 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Vast sums of money have been paid to people who revealed arms caches to Namibian security forces. According to a Namibian radio report, two people have received a total of 11,000 rands for revealing large arms and ammunition caches. One informant has allegedly been paid 6,000 rands, and the other 5,000 rands. Among the caches were rockets and landmines. The radio report said that several other caches, allegedly belonging to SWAPO, had been found after local inhabitants revealed them to security forces. It is not known who put up the money to pay the informants.

Police Head Says Terrorists To Be Combatted

MB181550 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1442 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Windhoek, May 18, SAPA — people who committed acts of terror against the people of SWA/Namibia would have to suffer the full power of the security forces, the commissioner of the SWA Police Force [SWAPF], Major-General Dolf Gouws, said in Windhoek today. Gen Gouws said Wednesday's bomb blast in Windhoek's city centre — after the abortive Lusaka independence talks — had been an act of terror aimed at the people of the country and was not an attack on the territory's infrastructure.

"I have taken note of evidence found by explosives experts of the SWAPF at the scene of the terrorist attack, that the explosives and detonator used in the bomb were usually applied by SWAPO terrorists in sabotage," he said.

In view of statements by SWAPO's leadership that the insurgency struggle would be intensified and brought to the doorsteps of the people of the territory, there was little doubt that SWAPO insurgents had planted the bomb. "The SWAPF will use all its power to ward off this onslaught and to protect the people of South-West Africa against the acts of terror by SWAPO," Gen Gouws said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha European Tour Itinerary Still Debated

Invited to Austria

MB181959 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] It has been announced in Vienna that the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, will visit Austria on 8 June as part of his European tour. The visit will include talks with the Austrian chancellor, Mr Fred Sinowatz. The announcement was also made in Cape Town by a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

To Visit Portugal

MB181306 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] It has been officially announced in Cape Town and Lisbon that the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, will be visiting Portugal at the end of this month as part of his European tour, which will last until the end of next month.

Mr Botha's official itinerary now includes West Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Britain, and Portugal as well as a private visit to France where he will visit Delville Wood. Delville Wood is where South African soldiers were engaged in a fight to the finish with German forces during the First World War.

According to statements released simultaneously in South Africa and Portugal this afternoon, the Portuguese prime minister, Dr Mario Soares, has officially invited Mr Botha to visit him. Mr Botha will be in Portugal from 29 to 31 May.

Mr Botha's visit to Delville Wood was announced by the French Foreign Ministry in Paris yesterday evening. It was also confirmed in Paris that his visit would be a private one. The French minister of cooperation and development, Mr Christian Nucci, had said earlier that France had no intention of playing host to Mr Botha or of arranging official talks for him.

Refuses Meeting With Cheysson

MB181421 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1347 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Cape Town, May 18, SAPA -- The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has turned down an invitation to meet with his French counterpart, Mr Claude Cheysson, during the prime minister's foreign tour next month. Mr Botha issued a statement here today confirming the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, intended to visit Delville Wood to lay the cornerstone of a museum to be erected there.

The foreign minister pointed out that at no time had a visit to Paris and a meeting between Mr P.W. Botha and President Francois Mitterand been considered, because "the prime minister is already committed to a busy programme of appointments and invitations in other European countries." It was not necessary to visit Paris to pay homage to those South Africans who had died so valiantly at Delville Wood. Mr Botha said the French foreign minister had invited him to visit Paris for discussions during the tour, but he had thanked him and pointed out that he could not accept at this juncture, as the European tour would require all his attention.

Updated Intinerary Reported

MB201256 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 May 84 p 3

[By Brian Pottinger, Political Correspondent]

[Text] The jigsaw pieces of Prime Minister P.W. Botha's Grand European Tour are slotting into place.

It will be the most intensive tour to be undertaken by a South African premier in recent times. Seven European countries have confirmed they will be receiving the prime minister. An eighth — Italy — is a strong probable, but a speculated stopover in the Ivory Coast is unlikely.

In a spate of official announcements this week European capitals confirmed invitations to the prime minister's touring party.

The itinerary so far includes a two-day stopover in Portugal on May 29 and 30, a day's visit to Switzerland on May 31, a short stopover in Britain on June 2, two days in Germany on June 5 and 6, a Belgian visit on June 7 and an Austrian stopover on June 8.

Also included in the programme is a short visit to France, where Mr Botha will lay the foundation stone of a museum being erected at Delville Wood to commemorate the fearful slaughter of South African troops during that famous battle in the First World War. Unlike the other confirmed visits which are to heads of states, the French visit will be unofficial, with only a French deputy minister attending the foundation laying ceremony. Although the Department of Foreign Affairs insists the intention had never been that Mr Botha see French President Francois Mitterrand, it is understood tentative inquiries were indeed made about the possibility of a meeting between the two. The decision of the French president not to meet the South African prime minister has, meanwhile, resulted in what is seen as a genteel South African putdown of the French.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha, citing pressure of the prime minister's tour, has politely declined an invitation from French Foreign Minister Mr Claude Cheysson for a minister-to-minister meeting.

High points of the tour will be the meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Saturday, June 2, with Portuguese Premier Soares and the talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Prime Minister Botha will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Pik Botha and their wives. Dr Dawie de Villiers, minister of industries, commerce and tourism, will be joining the party en route to assist the prime minister for some meetings with business leaders but will not be travelling with the official party. The prime minister's party will include the director general of foreign affairs, Mr Hans van Dalsen, senior officials from foreign affairs and the prime minister's office, a contingent of security men and a 23-strong press delegation.

Protocol and security advance guards have for some time been liaising in the host countries over the arrangements.

Exchange of Soldiers With Angola in Progress

MB210712 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs has confirmed in Pretoria that negotiations are in progress at the moment on the release of a South African soldier in Angola, in

exchange for a group of People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] troops held by South Africa. He said the exchange could take place today, but that problems had been encountered earlier in arranging this. The South African soldier was taken captive during Operation Askari last December.

Possibility of Abidjan Meeting on Namibia Noted
MB200810 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Diplomats in the Ivory Coast are speculating that the capital of Abidjan may serve as the next venue for talks between the various parties involved in negotiations for the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia. President Felix Houphouet-Boigny has said he is ready to help find a lasting and peaceful solution to the South-West Africa/Namibian conflict. The secret visit to Abidjan by the Cuban foreign minister, Mr Malmierca, appears to give weight to the speculation that the capital may be used as a venue for further talks. The presence of Cuban troops in Angola is a central issue in the South-West Africa/Namibian peace efforts.

The Diplomatic sources say Mr Malmierca discussed the possibility of an Abidjan conference on South-West Africa/Namibia with the Ivorian foreign minister, Mr Simeon Ake. The sources said the Ivory Coast would be an ideal venue because it is acceptable to all sides.

Only Logistical Aid to Mozambique Possible
MB181620 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1604 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] House of Assembly, May 18, SAPA — The minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, made it clear today that apart from logistic support the republic could not be expected to supply military equipment to Mozambique for the protection of the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme in that country.

Speaking in the committee on his vote, Gen Malan said that in viewof speculation and comments in the house and in the press about the S.A.D.F.'s [South African Defense Force] role in the protection of Cahora Bassa, he wished to clear the matter up.

He could see no problem with the provision of logistic support such as rations, medical provision, and trucks to help Mozambique patrol its side of the Cahora Bassa supply line, as this was in South Africa's interests.

However, in view of the arms boycott against South Africa, it could not be expected of South Africa to provide military equipment to Mozambique for the protection of Cahora Bassa, since the demands would be too high. South Africa, Gen Malan said, would not get involved in the internal conflict in Mozambique and just as it would be far-fetched to expect South Africa to help Mozambique to help eliminate anti-government forces there so, too, would it be far-fetched to expect Mozambique to help wipe out A.N.C. bases in the republic.

"I want to make it quite clear that when we make an agreement, like the Nkomati Accord, South Africa's honour is at stake."

Malan Says Submarines, Helicopters May Be Built
MB181424 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1323 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] House of Assembly, May 18, SAPA — ARMSCOR [Armaments Development Corporation] was considering the possibility of manufacturing submarines and helicopters, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said today.

"We have the capability of manufacturing submarines and helicopters," Gen Malan said during debate on his department's budget vote. He added that the local production of maritime reconnaissance aircraft was not feasible and "other possibilities" would have to be investigated.

During debate yesterday, the leader of the N.R.P. [New Republic Party], Mr Vause Raw, had said South Africa should pay "urgent attention" to the local production of helicopters and maritime equipment, such as submarines and corvettes.

Gen Malan said that since the mid-seventies, when ARMSCOR had gone into full operation, South Africa had become self-sufficient in armaments and had become a world leader in the manufacture of artillery.

ANC Radio Reports Military Wing Blows up Railroad
EA182103 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 18 May 84

[ANC program]

[Text] In Johannesburg this morning the combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe (?again) blew up a strategic railway line south of the city, forcing the regime to close down the line. The racist deputy commissioner of police claimed that the damage was light, but the continuous closure of the line and the sealing off of the area by the racist police indicated that the damage was extensive. This latest oppositon is part of the programme of the ANC for the intensification of the armed struggle which the movement is now embarking upon inside South Africa.

SWAZILAND

Further Report on Train Attack, Derailment
MB180920 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 18 May 84 p 1,24

[By Mashumi Twala]

[Text] A Swaziland Railways goods train was derailed and the driver shot up and injured in a gun ambush by unknown saboteurs near the border inside Mozambique. The driver of the train is presently in hospital in Maputo where he is receiving treatment for gunshot wounds. The incident took place about two and a half kilometers from Goba, according to the Railway's Chief Executive Officer, Mr K.D. Slabbert.

Mr Slabbert told *THE TIMES* that the train, carrying sugar and molasses, was on it way from Siweni to Maputo when it was attacked. He said a band of gunmen opened fire on it and injured the driver. "In the process most of the trucks of the train were derailed. The driver is now in hospital in Maputo where I am told his condition is fair," he said.

Mr Slabbert said he was in no position to disclose how much damage, if any, was caused to the train. "I do not even know yet how many of the trucks were derailed and how much load was on the train. Our communication with Mozambique is very poor. In fact it is almost nil." He said, however, that he had been assured by the Mozambique Embassy that the problem would be taken care of by the railway authorities that side. "So for us, there is nothing to do but sit and wait for word from my counterparts in Mozambique, " he said.

Mr Slabbert disclosed that as a result of the incident, the Swaziland Railways would not be able to send any goods to Mozambique. "Until the trucks are rerailed, there is nothing we can do," he said. It was for that reason that everything possible was being done to communicate with the Mozambique authorities and get a solution soon.

Police were unable to shed any light on the train attackers yesterday. And efforts to get comments from Mozambique authorities were unsuccessful.

Mozambican Envoy Denies Derailment
MB181949 Mbabane Television Service in English 1815 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Rail services between Swaziland and Mozambique were restored this morning after a heavy machine-gun attack on a Mozambique-bound goods train laden with about 1,000 tons of Swazi sugar and molasses forced its driver and his assistant to abandon it near Goba, in Mozambique on Wednesday night.

In an exclusive interview with Swaziland Television Broadcasting Corporation this morning, the Mozambican ambassador, Mr Daniel Magaia, said the driver and his assistant, who were slightly wounded, were taken to a hospital in Maputo after reporting the incident to the authorities in the Mozambican capital. Mr Magaia, who further disclosed that one of the men has since been discharged from hospital, refuted earlier reports that the train had been derailed. He said that although the train had been abandoned by its two-man crew when it was ambushed, its cargo was not damaged. He said the sugar consignment was being offloaded in Maputo harbor this morning and was on its way to world markets. Mr Magaia said his government was doing all it could to ensure the security of the railway line.

But the commercial director of Swaziland Railways, Mr (Isak Delport), said this afternoon that rail services between Mozambique and Matsapha would not be restored until Monday morning, when the line will be officially opened. Mr (Delport) said further consignments of sugar and molasses would be loaded at Phuzumoya on Monday. He said that oil companies and pulp and citrus exporters had been advised accordingly.

Police Arrest Six for ANC Ties, Wound One
MB181045 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 18 May 84 p 24

[Excerpts] An ANC member was shot and wounded and five other people arrested in swift police raids in Manzini. Arms of war, namely four AK 47 Assault rifles, seven magazines, 150 rounds of ammunition, and one automatic pistol were seized during the operation.

The wounded man was shot when police surrounded a house at Mbhuleni, Kwaluseni, and ordered the occupants to come out with their hands up. He failed to obey the order. Police opened fire and he was hit in the knee-cap.

Another ANC man who was in the same house was arrested. A Swazi woman who rents the house was also taken in for questioning.

In another confrontation, near the University of Swaziland, police fired a number of shots when they arrested another ANC man who was driving a BMW car. The man had one AK 47 rifle, one rifle magazine loaded with 30 rounds of ammunition and a pistol with two magazines loaded with 15 rounds of ammunition. "He was not given a chance to use his dangerous weapons," Senior Superintendent said. "As soon as police confronted him bullets flew and he had no alternative but to surrender." The man was driving from a homestead at Mbekelweni where, police said, he was being harboured by the homestead owner together with a colleague.

After the arrest of the BMW-driving man, police proceeded to the homestead at Mbekelweni to arrest the other man. When police arrived and surrounded the homestead, the second ANC man tried to dash for freedom. Police fired warning shots and shouted for him to surrender. Realising he had no chance, the man surrendered.

Police searched the house and discovered three AK 24 rifles, four magazines and 120 live rounds of rifle ammunition. The head of the homestead was arrested and will be charged with harbouring undesirable elements, police said. This brings to six the number of people arrested in operations over the past two days.

"A third man," said Senior Superintendent Bhembe, "is still at large. Our information is that he is the distributing agent who takes these people to the houses where they hid."

Police also recovered 23 house and car keys.

Operations began after police received a tip-off that the distributing man was transporting some men to a house in Manzini. When police arrived at the house, they discovered that the man had left half an hour before the house at Kwaluseni where the wounded man was shot. Police rushed to Kwaluseni and arrested two ANC men after shooting and wounding one of them.

Mr Bhembe warned all members of the ANC still at large to surrender to the police. "To those of the ANC who are still at large, my advice is: surrender as the Prime Minister has advised because your chances of escaping are slim.

"On behalf of the Commissioner of Police, I would like to repeat the Prime Minister's warning that all Swazi citizens should report any suspicious people in their neighborhoods. If they fail to do so, they run the risk of injury to themselves and their properties when police surround the ANC cadres."

ZIMBABWE

All-Out War on Dissidents Declared

MB181827 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, today declared an all-out war against dissidents and their supporters. Comrade Mugabe told hundreds of mourners at the burial of Comrade Peter Simunyu, who was murdered by dissidents at his home in (Musengezi) last Sunday, that the police and the security forces will mount a manhunt not only in the houses, but also in bushes, anthills, and trees. He said ZAPU is to blame for the murder of Comrade Simunyu, the ZANU-PF secretary for tranport for the (Musengezi) District. The prime minister added that those who belong to ZAPU in the area will have to answer for it. Comrade Simunyu, a shopowner at the (Mkwahsa) Business Center, was shot dead by a group of five dissidents, who first ransacked his shop and got away with about 250 dollars, a check for 600 dollars, and several hundred dollars' worth of groceries. He leaves a widow and five children.

Comrade Mugabe told the mourners that ZAPU has now proved to be incorrigible, and will never see the errors of its ways, let alone the hand of friendship and unity being extended to it by ZANU-PF. He explained that the hand of friendship and unity should not be taken for cowardice, but should be seen as a wish to ensure that too much blood is not spilled in Zimbabwe. Comrade Mugabe said ZAPU has opened a new chapter and must be prepared for a very tough road. The funeral was attended by several cabinet ministers as well as the governor of the province, Comrade Mudomeni Chivende.

Mugabe Pledges 'Tough' Action Against ZAPU

NC182019 Paris AFP in English 1959 GMT 18 May 84

[Spelling of all place names as received]

[Text] Msengezi, central Zimbabwe, May 18 (AFP) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe today pledged tough new action against Joshua Nkomo's opposition Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) Party, which he blamed for the murder of a ruling party official here by anti-government rebels.

Mr Mugabe, speaking at the funeral of the local official, Peter Simunyu, in this black farming area 90 kms (55 miles) west of Harare, said his government had in the four years since independence been accommodating to Mr. Nkomo's party for the sake of national unity. "But now there is going to be a new road that we will walk, and ZAPU must be prepared for a very tough, an exceedingly tough road", Mr Mugabe told the mourners, who included Security Minister Emmerson Munangagwa, a relative of Mr Simunyu.

Mr Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) Party has consistently blamed ZAPU for backing the rebel "dissidents" operating for the past two years in southwestern Matabeleland, Mr Nkomo's political stronghold, and Mr Nkomo has always denied the charges. The killing of Mr Simunyu last Sunday in Msengezi by a group of about five rebels who ransacked his grocery store is the closest dissident action to Harare, and Mr Mugabe said ZAPU supporters in the area who harbor or encourage rebels would be "hunted down".

Army To Escort Vehicles Bringing Corn From Malawi

MB181841 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The government has asked the Zimbabwe National Army to escort all vehicles involved in the importation of corn from Malawi. Announcing this today to the delegates of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce Congress at Victoria Falls, the deputy minister of transport, Comrade Nelson Mawema, said the escort is being undertaken from Machipanda on the Zimbawe border to the Malawi border. The minister said more than 600,000 tons of corn is to be imported. Comrade Mawema called on industrialists to engage in labor intensive production methods in order to reduce unemployment.

Nigeria's Gambari Expected To Make Visit

AB180812 Lagos NAN in English 0800 GMT 18 May 84

[By Adewale Fatona]

[Text] Harare, May 17 (NAN) — The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, is expected to arrive in Harare on May 24 on the first leg of a 10-day official visit to Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana, and Zambia. A source at the Nigerian High Commission in Harare told the southern Africa correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) today that during the visit, Dr Gambari would brief his counterparts on current developments in Nigeria and discuss bilateral relations between Nigeria and the four frontline states.

The minister will also hold talks on recent political developments in the sub-region with President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Quett Masire of Botswana, Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola, and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. Among the issues likely to be discussed are the Nkomati nonag-gression pact between South Africa and Mozambique, and the ceasefire accord which Pretoria signed with Angola in February. It is expected that while in Lusaka, Dr Gambari will be briefed on last week's tripartite talks on Namibia's independence held in the Zambian capital. Delegates from South Africa, SWAPO and Zambia were present at the talks.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Meets Mugabe

LD192016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The under secretary in charge of international and economic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, now in Harare,

met with the prime minister of Zimbabwe this morning. The acting minister of foreign affairs of that country, and the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Harare were present at the meeting. The under secretary in charge of international and economic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country commented on the expansion and strengthening of mutual relations, the possibility of trade exchanges between the two countries and meeting the oil needs of Zimbabwe. He announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to provide itsengineering and technical facilities for the reconstruction, expansion and commissioning of the disused Zimbabwean refinery.

The under secretary in charge of economic and international affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country, elaborating on the current situation in the Persian Gulf and thedifferent dimensions of the imposed war, said: Considering the subservient policies and aims followed by the Ba'thist regime of Saddam, the Islamic Republic of Iran feels bound to continue to defend the country and the revolution. Referring to the recent developments in the Persian Gulf, and the attacks launched by the Baghdad regime on tankers, he said: The recent developments should be viewed as another conspiracy hatched by Saddam's regime with the help of America and with the cooperation of the reactionaries in the region in order to spread tension and create instability and insecurity in the Persian Gulf and in confrontation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Robert Mugabe, prime minister of Zimbabwe, welcomed the Persian delegation and expressed pleasure at the stance taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to oppressed African countries, including Zimbabwe. He praised the aid sent by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the countries on the front line of war against South Africa, which he described as a positive step toward expanding and strengthening mutual relations.

At the end of the meeting the undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran confirmed the invitation extended by our country's Prime Minister Musavi-Khamene'i to the prime minister of Zimbabwe, to visit Iran. The invitation was warmly received.

According to this report, members of the Iranian delegation met with the Zimbabwe energy minister and studied the possibilities of close cooperation between the two countries in energy.